

January - February

SPECIAL YEAR-END NUMBER

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CANADIAN

Welfare

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The Canadian Welfare Council

Was founded in Ottawa, in 1920, as the result of a National Conference of Child Welfare Workers, convened by the Child Welfare Division, Dominion Department of Health.

OBJECT

- (1) To create throughout the Dominion of Canada an informed public opinion on problems in the field of social welfare.
- (2) To assist in the promotion of standards and services which are based on scientific principles and which have been proved effective in practical experience.

METHODS

- (1) The preparation and publication of literature, arrangement of lectures, addresses, radio and film material, etc., and general educational propaganda in social welfare.
- (2) Conferences.
- (3) Field Studies and Surveys.
- (4) Research.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership falls into two groups, organization and individual.

- (1) Organization membership shall be open to any organization, institution or group having the progress of Canadian Social Welfare wholly or in part included in their programme, articles of incorporation, or other statement of incorporation.
- (2) Individual membership shall be open to any individual interested in or engaged in welfare work, upon payment of the fee, whether that individual is in work, under any government in Canada, or not.

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In electing the Governing Board and the Executive, all members will be grouped according to their registration by the Treasurer.

Every member will receive a copy of the proceedings of the Annual Conference and such other free publications as may be published from time to time.

“Ave atque Vale”

THE Board of Governors of the Canadian Welfare Council announce with sincerest regret their acceptance of the resignation of Charlotte Whitton, C.B.E., M.A., D.C.L., L.L.D., for fifteen years Executive-Director of the Council.

Her resignation has come at a time when the Governors of the Council, and indeed all her friends, were rejoicing at the signal honour paid her by her Alma Mater, Queen's, when on the occasion of the celebration of the University's hundredth anniversary Dr. Whitton was given the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa). On this occasion the University cited Dr. Whitton as Queen's most distinguished woman graduate “who has made a place for herself not only in Canada, but throughout this continent, in the organizing of social service work to the greater benefit of those who are in need.”

Earlier in her career, Dr. Whitton had received other outstanding and well-deserved recognition. In 1934 she was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire; in 1935 she was awarded the King's Jubilee medal, and in 1937, the Coronation medal. In 1939 she had conferred on her, by King's College, Halifax, the degree of Doctor of Civil Laws.

And now, after fifteen years of distinguished service and strenuous effort, Miss Whitton leaves the Council. These fifteen years have been packed with achievement. To few people has it been given to see so rapid a development in the field of their chosen work, and fewer have been such a force in shaping it. To still fewer has this happened so early in life—for Charlotte Whitton is still a young woman.

Miss Whitton received her early education in the schools of her birthplace, the town of Renfrew, Ontario. Entering Queen's University with a host of scholarships, she quickly made herself felt in every phase of student activities, combining brilliant academic successes with outstanding ability in athletics. Armed with an M.A. degree and high honours, in 1918 she started out on the career which has made her the best known social worker in Canada and one of the outstanding women of her generation.

While assistant secretary of the Social Service Council of Canada, she became honorary secretary of the Canadian Council on Child Welfare founded in Ottawa in 1920 as the result of a National Conference of Child Welfare Workers convened by the new Dominion Department of Health. Her interest in social work grew during the next six years, four of which were spent as secretary to the Dominion Minister of Trade and Commerce, and in 1926 she assumed a full-time position as Director of the Council. The subsequent history of this organization—the Canadian Welfare Council of to-day—as it grew into what is now



virtually a National Council of Social Agencies, is largely the story of Miss Whitton's leadership and activities. Those who read the pages of *WELFARE* know that story. Major social work developments throughout the country stand as monuments to her energy and initiative, and her output in research and publications has been little short of amazing. With a tongue as fluent as her pen, she is a well-known speaker throughout Canada and the United States. As the Canadian representative on the League of Nations Commission on Social Questions she became a valued colleague of leading British and United States welfare workers and the growth of Canadian social work has been strengthened as a result of her many and varied contacts.

Endowed with seemingly inexhaustible energy and with extraordinarily diversified interests, Miss Whitton's knowledge extends to a wide variety of subjects and her activities are numerous. A good carpenter and motor mechanic, she lectures on Irish poetry and the English cathedrals, and hopes shortly to publish a text book on social legislation, and later a life of Elizabeth Tudor!

As she relinquishes the helm of the organization which she has piloted so ably from its beginnings to the present time, the members of the Board of Governors are deeply sensible of her contribution and it is hard for them to think of what the loss of her brilliant leadership will mean.

They do not believe that "fresh fields and pastures new" for Miss Whitton can lie very far from the work to which she has given of herself so unselfishly and unstintingly in the past. She takes with her the satisfaction of a job well done, together with the whole-hearted appreciation and the heartiest good wishes of every member of the Council. They predict for her further brilliant successes in a happy future to which "what is past is prelude".

PHILIP S. FISHER,
President.

Minute of Record—Board of Governors Canadian Welfare Council

THE Board of Governors of the Canadian Welfare Council records with deep regret the resignation of Dr. Charlotte E. Whitton, for fifteen years Executive Director of the Council, to whose exceptional ability and creative effort its present status is largely due. Recognizing that the full results of her unremitting devotion to the cause of Canadian social welfare cannot be assessed at the present time, and believing that the enduring nature of her contribution will be felt through future years, the Board herein sets forth its sincere appreciation of Miss Whitton's remarkable services to the nation and its deep sense of the loss sustained by the Canadian Welfare Council through her resignation.

Vale

EVER SINCE, nearly twenty-four years ago, I left the loved campus of Queen's to join the Social Service Council of Canada you have been a host of valued friends, you to whom and with whom I have talked, in letters, across the desk, in the pages of *Social Welfare*, and, later, of *Canadian Welfare*. The tides of time have carried us in and out of each other's territorial waters and many of you I have come to know. We have become companions-in-arms and, together, we have tried to fight the good fight for decent living, commensurate with human dignity, for all the people of Canada.

"Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers," and, possibly, at times, we have shown truer intuition than intelligence as we sought to make democracy, as a way of life, real throughout our land. We have tried to free its vital force from the hampering shackles of our own creation,—limitations in the spheres of jurisdiction, in religious and racial prejudices, in geographic and economic restrictions. We have sought to make the good life for free men as warm a reality in the border-line as in the privileged home, in the cabin of the pioneer as in the comfort of the city-dweller, in the clouded day of the handicapped as with the quick of foot and of sight and of mind, in the sinking sun-rays of the aged as in the dancing dawn of childhood, and the haunting horizons of youth.

We record mistakes and failures and some achievements in this quarter century of our good comradeship, but we have, too, a clear score of an enlarged, enlightened and determined public conviction on the rightness of our creed, and a definitely enlarged area, occupied by well-organized, well-supported, and well-served community welfare forces, public and voluntary. This advance we have attained, without social or constitutional disruption, by slow and sensible progress within the framework of our country's beliefs, customs, traditions, constitutional practice and institutions of government. It has been my conviction, as it has been my faith and constant encouragement, that all we still seek to make life, safer, fuller, more secure for our people awaits our patient progress along the same paths, whereby we have already travelled, so far, and, on the whole, so happily.

Vision, faith, courage—these are the qualities that those who would serve their day and people may pray their God to grant them: these, and the strength of sacrifice, and the power to endure the moment's testing for eternity's attainments.

*"Be our joy, three parts pain!
Strive and hold cheap the strain!
Learn, nor account the pang!
dare, never grudge the throe!"*

and, so, I sign my last memo to you.



At the Turn of this Year

FOR TEN YEARS now the Canadian Welfare Council has issued, at year's end, a review of trends in welfare problems and services, and a hazard as to probable developments and high pressure areas in the opening twelve months. This year, unfortunately, circumstances have so combined as to make impossible the thorough study and analysis which have established a good measure of confidence in this Council release. This is the more regrettable in that some of the public statistical compilations, available in recent years through some of the Dominion Government services have been discontinued. At the same time, unusual realignments have been changing the nature and substance of our economic life, and the social structure and life of the people have been fundamentally affected. Never has the national income been at greater peak, never has employment been at higher tide—nor so fluid: never has labour been in greater demand. Incredible resiliency has been shown in the "come back" to gainful occupation and self-support of persons classified as "totally unemployable", and the totals on public aid have recorded a corresponding and surprising reduction. Of course, all parts of the country have not been equally affected nor are all problems in social service and aid soluble through work and income. Many persist, new ones develop, and others evince changed aspects, requiring transfer of emphasis in treatment. Clearly, the welfare services of this democracy are being called upon for a type of intensive personal service, that will test their intelligence, their adaptability, and their resources of personal skills and spiritual strength to greater degree even than the disintegrating depression decade.

So, at the turn of this year, *WELFARE* has called on some of our keenest and most respected observers to give us their impressions of these changing currents in the waves of time, as they see them in the United Kingdom, the United States and the Dominion of Canada.

NOTE:—These articles were all "on the machines" before the Japanese thrust and the United States' shift from "non" to "belligerency". C.W.



Battered but unbroken: Big Ben still strikes the chimes of freedom through the air waves of the world.

This able Toronto graduate has given unusual service first to the League of Nations, and later with the British Ministry in London and now in Washington.

With the Mother of Freedom

MARY CRAIG McGEACHY

IT is improbable that many pre-war visitors from this continent left the British Isles with much realization of its new and enlightened social developments. They had gone to Sweden, reading Mr. Marquis Childs' "Sweden, the Middle Way." In Russia, they were shown children's clinics and creches in the factories. In Denmark they were informed about the co-operative system, and throughout Scandinavia they saw the Volksschulen.

But, in the United Kingdom, there were few English writers or English guides to give the non-professional visitor any sense of its profound and constant social developments.

The visitors wanted to see the Crown Jewels, the Tower, the Cheshire Cheese, Stratford-on-Avon: in Edinburgh they sought out the narrow rooms where Mary, Queen of Scots had dwelt,—the inspiring survivals and the great ceremonies of a common storied past. Such survivals are a real part of the fabric of British life, but no survey of it can be real that stops with them.

The immediate pre-war years were probably the most trying of recent times. A severe economic crisis had ended an illusory prosperity. Industry was severely dislocated; the apprenticeship system broke down under the strain; new challenges were put to education authorities; the problem of relief for unemployment brought fundamental questions in social order. In Britain no new social theories were evolved; there was a conspicuous lack of "isms" as compared with the Continent, or even with the United States. Yet, between 1918 and 1938, one-third of her population was rehoused. During the last three years of this period, 1936 to 1938, a million houses were built.

Between 1914 and 1938, nine years were added to the expectation of life of men and women; between 1910 and 1938, the rate of infant mortality was halved and the total mortality of children under five was cut down by fifty-eight percent. Three pounds were added to the weight of every school child in this period and the children leaving school between 1936 and 1938 were from one to two inches taller than their predecessors of 1914.

A Contributory Pensions Scheme was established for widows, orphans and insured workers and their wives of over sixty-five years of age. In the midst of the present war, in March 1940, this Scheme was extended to provide pensions at the

age of sixty for insured women and the wives of insured men.

It is not necessary, here, to describe the structure of the Social Services in Britain. The precise authority responsible for education, public health and medical services, employment exchanges and the supply of labour, and provision for the welfare of the blind, the mentally defective and other sub-normal members of the community is interesting only to the technician and the administrator. What is of wider interest in Britain's experience of the past two years is the nature of the challenge that has been put before all of these services.

War's Transformations

People in Britain today are going through a quite new experience in social living—they are discovering the meaning of "total" defence. Even before the war, they had prepared ambulance corps, first-aid units, air raid precautions organizations and auxiliary fire-fighting squads. The Home Office directed the establishment of the Women's Voluntary Services, that great body which now numbers nearly a million and which was fitted into the pattern of local government to assist in easing the strain on civil authorities. But for many of the emergencies of an attack which seeks out homes, factories and hospitals as its chief objective, British people have had to improvise solutions in the midst of action and actually under fire. This improvisation has fallen upon the regular authorities concerned with public health and medical services, and education, and

upon those responsible for linking voluntary effort with the work of trained professionals.

What new social problems are created in a scene of "total" defence? In the first place, the Englishman's home, traditionally quite specially his own possession, and the centre on which the whole structure of normal social life was built, is no longer his. If he lives in a town his roof may no longer exist; or if it does, he is faced with the fact that domestic service does not exist as it did before the war. Younger women in Britain are to be found in the armed forces or in munitions factories, and older women are encouraged to train for public rather than for private service. In either town or country district, homes are regarded, not as special property of their owners but as potential shelters for a given number of persons, and a man may find evacuees from neighbouring streets or distant towns sharing the facilities of his kitchen, bath and drawing-room.

Grafting on New Forces

It would be difficult for anyone who has not actually been in England during the past year to realize how very radically the ordinary medical and social services are affected by the blackout. At this time of year, the dark comes down over Britain between four and five o'clock in the afternoon. Women cannot be expected to visit clinics in the hours after dark and so visiting hours are cut down. Further, travelling facilities in towns and even more in country districts have

been greatly decreased. All this means that medical care and social advice cannot move as before the war through clinics or offices; home visiting takes the place of much clinic service. This has, of course, led to a new demand for trained and semi-trained social workers. A great many auxiliary voluntary people have been brought into the ranks of social work, with all the problems attendant upon the dilution of a professional trained corps with volunteers.

In the first year of the war the Ministry of Health enrolled one hundred thousand new nurses for civilian (not Red Cross or military) work and the Women's Voluntary Services, the Salvation Army and other Organizations helped to provide auxiliary personnel for public health and social visiting. One conclusion has emerged from an experience that was not without its trials, viz.—that when one is obliged to dilute the ranks of professionally trained nurses and social workers, one must require at least secondary school education in the auxiliary personnel.

Britain's experience in expanding social work personnel may not be without some value in Canada and the United States. Britain has needed auxiliary social workers not only to take evacuated children out of towns, but to staff nursery Schools, and to supplement services in country villages whose child population has been trebled and quadrupled. This expansion of the social services has also had an intimate connection with the new

policies of furnishing labour to industry, the dispersal of industrial plant, and the employment of women in the armed forces. For example, housewives who now do a daily job in a Government office, in public transport or in a factory, no longer have time to shop for their household needs; and so a section of the Women's Voluntary Services is now doing shopping service for the younger, trained women who are working in the defence industries.

Changing Challenges

Further, many of the women who have gone into factories have had to leave their homes altogether because, in order to avoid the Luftwaffe, industrial plants in Britain are scattered throughout the country. The women who have exchanged pre-war occupations for the discipline of a factory regime and the monotony of mass production, who live in improvised quarters or the crowded rooms of a new defence area, need as much help as can be given by volunteer workers to make up for the lack of familiar shops, churches, tea rooms, clubs, libraries, cinemas. Some of the Women's Organizations in Great Britain have assumed, as their special charge, service to the women who are in the dispersed factories, in isolated Army Camps or aerodromes or remote coastal stations. This is the kind of service that may well be found worthy of imitation on the American continent where the problem of the wives and small families who follow the men into new factory areas or Army Camps

is just beginning to be perceived. There is no question that the coming into being of Army Camps and the beginning of the scheme for dispersing factories will require the supplementing of existing services for education, public health and social welfare.

Perhaps it is natural that the untrained woman or girl who is drawn to voluntary service would think first of service for men in the forces. People in Britain, however, have discovered that only a very small part of the problem of welfare—or of national defence for that matter—has been dealt with when canteens and recreation facilities have been provided for troops. In a country under fire it is abundantly clear that effective defence depends not only upon the morale of the balloon barrage unit or the anti-aircraft squad; it depends quite as much upon the stamina and will to resist of the worker in the factory, the driver of the bus, the locomotive engineer, of the docker, the plumber, the telephone trouble-man, the secretary in her office, the teacher, the mother and her children. This is the most fortunate of discoveries for British people because it has also become clear that this discovery is true not merely for a war period but for peace as well.

Britain has been obliged to recruit many thousands more nurses for civilian work. Approximately one half of the two or three thousand nursery schools which now exist in the country have been set up as a result of the evacuation of

children from vulnerable areas; and day nurseries will multiply as a result of the calling of more women into factory work. The most fortunate aspect of all this development lies in the fact that no country village which has secured augmented public health and social services to deal with an enlarged population will go back after the war to inadequate services. It has become clear that national defence means defence not merely against an enemy outside; it means the defence, the nourishing and developing of life within.

Feeding in War Time

Britain's experience with food offers one of the most striking illustrations of this fact. Before the war, in a country where the fruit of the world could be bought in London shops, the food habits of certain sections of the population were deplorable. Though the League of Nations' Mixed Committee on Nutrition had made valuable scientific data available to the world, in many English homes mothers put their children to bed on a supper of bread, margarine and tea. Now, it is clear that diet and food habits are an essential part of national defence. A great percentage of Britain's food is imported and since the weapons of war must also be brought in in ships the tonnage given over to foodstuffs must be strictly rationed. So the Ministry of Food is obliged to assess the food needs of the country, and in this scientific knowledge about food values and nutrition needs is being applied to

the whole population for the first time.

Further, Britain has been obliged to make practical demonstrations of public feeding. The bombs which destroy houses destroy grocery shops and dairies too, and so emergency canteens have been set up serving food provided freely by the Ministry of Food. Public feeding has now, however, developed far beyond this emergency period. British restaurants are being expanded throughout the country. They are administered by the Government and run by professional caterers and cooks but employ hundreds of auxiliary voluntary personnel. They are organized, not on the cafeteria system but on the principle of providing balanced meals outside the ration card. No ration cards need be produced in a British restaurant. On the other hand, the customer has few choices and must pay for a table d'hôte meal. The object of the British restaurant is not to provide cheap little snacks, but to persuade people to eat a solid well-balanced meal. As a result of this policy, hundreds of thousands of people are being educated into better food habits.

Communal feeding in schools will be extended in the future, too. When children are living in the midst of dislocation it is no longer thought that the provision of extra milk in schools is an adequate answer to their dietary needs. So schools in Britain are now furnishing a midday meal which will contain the child's whole need of vitamins and mineral salts for that day.

It is now being urged that the communal meal in school should be made compulsory, that is, that parents should be obliged to leave their children in school for the school mid-day meal unless they can prove that they are providing equally good nutriment at home. There is no question that Britain is becoming aware of the fact that proper feeding and the inculcation of good food habits is an essential part of the defence of her child life.

A Personal Word

One could describe the demands which have been made upon social and public health workers by bombardments — the shelter problem, the everyday trial of keeping services going in spite of breakdowns in the service which we take for granted — transport, light, water, gas, telephone. A number of new devices have been invented in emergencies of which the Citizens' Advice bureaux is one of the most interesting. It is an adaptation of this continent's family bureaux with referral services. Emphasis in this article has been placed on certain social services which have so taken root that they will persist.

A good part of my time, prior to the war, was spent in Europe— There one heard the same misgivings as I have heard from social workers since coming to this continent. Faced with continuous competitive interpretation with other community interests in obtaining an adequate budget, they feared that, with war, the Social Services were bound to retrogress because

Continued on page 15

With Whom We Are Allied

WHATEVER else we in the United States are facing at the turn of this troubled year, the reshaping of our current social welfare programme seems one of the certainties. We are discovering that there are priorities in social welfare as well as in materials for defence. But at the moment it appears that social priorities, whatever they are, are being determined less by philosophic social evaluation than by public opinion under the impact of current history.

As I have gone about the country during the past two years I have heard social workers everywhere assert that, come what may, "our social gains must be preserved." Because the "Miss Bailey" in me is an inveterate question asker, I repeatedly have sought to learn just what is meant by "social gains." Is it a philosophy? A programme? If a programme, then is it the form that we must preserve, or what? The answers that I collected do not, I am obliged to admit, add up to any clear picture of what social workers count as indispensable. Rather they indicate, to me at least, that by and large each of us holds a brief for some particular activity or programme—WPA, NYA, FSA, OAA, ADC, CWS, SMA to mention a few of our alphabetical aggrega-

Gertrude Springer, an associate editor of *The Survey*, is known to social workers everywhere as "Miss Bailey." She sends us what "Mrs. Springer Thinks," a variant on her popular series of articles "Miss Bailey Says . . ."

GERTRUDE SPRINGER

tion—to lose which would be, in that individual's estimate, to lose all. Only rarely have I encountered people who were more concerned with the basic substance of our social enterprise, than with threats to certain of its diverse forms, who were endeavouring to appraise the essential value to the whole structure of the stones we have built into it.

Social workers talk a great deal, in conferences and out, about "priorities on the social front," but not many of them like to admit that the determination of those priorities has been going on for a year at the hands of representative government bodies that appropriate funds for welfare purposes. There can be no denial however that our programme is changing rapidly and that the rate of change is accelerating.

Defence and the Welfare Services

The predominant factor dictating that change is, of course, the change in the labor market due to the vast expansion of defence industries. This has had the effect of taking practically all skilled labor off WPA and relief rolls and, because of improved family employment, it is an element in a slight drop now showing itself in

the rolls of the social security services notably Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children. Congress, strongly backed by public opinion, took cognizance of this change early last summer when it made a sharp reduction in the WPA appropriation for the current fiscal year. The reduction would have been greater, it was generally conceded, had not WPA officials accepted earmarking of a large portion of the fund for defence projects such as road building and air ports. But the effect of this reduction was to alter materially the whole WPA programme. Projects that could not by any stretch be related to defence got less and less consideration. Sewing rooms for women were among the first to go. Recreation projects were saved in large part by some quick foot work on the part of WPA officials in relating them to the needs of service men and training camp communities. Many projects for "white collar" workers have been closed out and very few new ones have been initiated. Increasingly, the country over, WPA rolls now are made up of unskilled, common labor and of persons who, for age or other reasons, are at a disadvantage in the competitive labor market.

The impact of the defence programme also has brought a sea change to the National Youth Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, both of which, with their rolls reduced by opportunities for "regular" employment, have shifted their emphasis so rapidly

to vocational training that school authorities have risen up to challenge their existence outside the framework of the educational system. Preliminary steps, instigated by President Roosevelt, now are under way for amalgamating the two agencies into one by means which will "preserve the experience and values of both."

As our Canadian neighbours know, the general direct relief programme in the United States receives no support from the federal government but is financed by state and local funds, sometimes one, sometimes the other, sometimes both. Here too there has been a marked reduction in rolls, most spectacular in those places with a policy that did not limit assistance rigidly to "unemployables." In Pennsylvania for example general assistance dropped in late November to a new low of 73,534 cases of which only about 29,000 contained a member who could possibly be classified as employable. This is a reduction from 275,000 cases in August, 1939. During the same period WPA employment in the state fell from 130,000 to 65,000. In New York state the combined home relief and WPA case load fell from 763,000 cases in the peak month of February 1936 to 271,000 in October 1941, a drop of 63 percent. The reduction was more marked upstate than in New York City.

On the other side of the picture are states but slightly affected by the defence "boom," where general relief, if it exists at all, is rigidly

restricted to unemployables. Here the need for relief shows little change, while the possibility of meeting that need is made more remote by the rising popular idea that "there's work now for all that really want it."

This country is so large that any generalization is dangerous, but what seems to be happening is that WPA rolls are shaking down to people of low and occasional employability and that relief rolls are approaching nearer and nearer to a category of unemployables.

Facing up to Permanent Problems

The change in the nature of the WPA programme has revealed a weakness in our whole public aid set-up of which many thoughtful social workers long have been aware—the lack of the basic underpinning of a countrywide, minimum standard, general relief programme including medical care. In spite of pious pronouncements that the federal government went out of "the relief business" in 1935, with the liquidation of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, it is a fact in many places, indeed in a few whole states, that WPA jobs and surplus commodities are all the relief there is. But now WPA is contracting and is becoming increasingly inelastic; the general distribution of surplus commodities is shrinking to fewer and fewer items and the Food Stamp Plan, given the demand for food stuffs under the lease-lend law, seems of doubtful longevity. As a result great numbers of

people in those localities and states that rest their whole general relief burden on federal activities are facing bad times.

Although President Roosevelt long ago set his face firmly against any federal participation in a general relief programme, holding it to be a local responsibility, there is hope that he may modify his position and lend his support to a measure that would establish general relief as a fourth category under the social security programme. This would mean federal grants-in-aid to the states under the general control and administrative supervision of the Social Security Board. Most of the responsible agencies informed on conditions throughout the country—the American Public Welfare Association, the American Association of Social Workers, the Family Welfare Association of America, for example,—long have favoured such a plan. The advisory committee of the Social Security Board and the National Resources Planning Board both have endorsed it, and Mrs. Roosevelt has "come out" for it.

What many people believe, or at least hope, that the President will advocate is a general realignment of our various agencies of public assistance, many of which are still functioning in terms of "unemployment emergency," into a system responsive to present needs and flexible enough to permit permanent long range planning. In such a system some kind of federal underpinning for general relief and

for decent medical services for the indigent certainly would have a place.

Progress not in Jeopardy

Gathering up all the strands of what I have seen and heard around the country it seems to me that the really important social gains of the past decade are not greatly jeopardized, at least up to now. Few elected representatives would risk their political necks by undercutting old age assistance and aid to dependent children; the much publicized campaign for better nutrition, the revelations of the state of health of the men reporting to the selective service boards reinforce many of social work's contentions. The NYA and CCC have been enormously useful but their passing will not be too serious a blow if from them comes a broader service for the country's youth. WPA, bulwark as it has been these last five years, is not perfect. Many of its friends would welcome an overhaul that would clear up the philosophical and practical conflicts that make it, they say, "neither regular work nor good relief."

Certainly, at this turn of the year, change is in the air, for our

social programmes no less than for every other aspect of our way of life. But I do not see why we should expect all the changes to be for the worse. If, for example, we achieve a sound nationwide grants-in-aid programme for general relief and medical care, will not that compensate in considerable degree for what we may lose in terms of WPA and other offspring of the depression?

In counting our gains of the past ten years and in appraising their permanence there is one that, I think, social workers often overlook, the improvement in the quality of public opinion that is turned on matters of social welfare services, their content and their administration. Oh! I know there are black spots, but I know too that the level is steadily rising, and I maintain that it could not do so without a rising level of public understanding and a deepening public sense of responsibility. Of all our gains of the past ten years this, to me, is Gain Number One. I do not believe that there is any possibility of losing it and I submit that, with it, our foundation is secure.

WITH THE MOTHER OF FREEDOM . . . Continued from page 11

"we shall never be able to compete in the public interest with Organizations that minister to soldiers." The only reply is that if public health and social welfare authorities allow their services to go under in a time of emergency, then they have failed to interpret to the pub-

lic the essential meaning of national defence. In Britain it is clear that national defence means not merely warding off attack upon the lives of citizens; it means building up those lives from within by every means, physical, intellectual and spiritual.

On the Eastern Seaboard

IN MANY PARTS of Eastern Canada,—St. John, Sussex, Moncton, Amherst, Sydney, and other parts of Cape Breton, Yarmouth, Truro, and Halifax, to take the most outstanding examples,—the Department of National Defence has spent a great deal of money in the erection of buildings, equipment, dockyards, wharves, and in supplies of all kinds,—clothing, food, etc. In Halifax more money was spent by the Department from September 1940-September 1941, than there was from September 1939-September 1940. Since war began \$16,000,000 is reported as expended in the Halifax area, for the navy, the army, and the air force.

Such expenditure keeps a very large amount of money circulating in most communities of the Maritime Provinces. The backwash of this spending has helped even those sections which are not in the centre of war activities.

Trade

Wholesale trade has been brisk, stimulated by the purchasing of supplies for the troops. In Halifax alone, wholesale trade was 40% higher in October 1941 than in October 1940, and covering many lines of goods.

In our cities and in most of our towns retail trade has increased even over the last year's large turnover. In Halifax retail trade

War wages, and in the Maritimes, its demands mean further employment, with business reporting "money easy".

GWEN SHAND

was 20% higher in October 1941 than in October 1940.

Restaurants are crowded, and people are often turned away. Hotels are busier than ever. The larger hotels have almost all been re-decorated, some very elaborately,—a reflection of their prosperous condition. Confectionery and fruit stores are extremely busy, and new ones are being opened.

Luxury goods find a ready purchaser. An increase in this type of merchandise was noted last year, but it seems to be even more pronounced this year. Clothing and household equipment are said to be moving quickly. People are in general better dressed,—from the very poor to the well-to-do.

Cinemas and other places of entertainment are crowded. Concerts, sales, teas, etc., for war service funds are of weekly or semi-weekly occurrence, and all do well. Even in the smaller places a surprising amount is raised for war purposes, and for the bombed areas in Britain.

The Water Front.

To take Halifax as an example,—here the waterfront has been very busy and the earnings of stevedores have been good. During the last year there was 4,000,000 more tonnage passing over the Halifax wharves.

Just lately there has been a lull, possibly due to several causes. Preparations are being made for an expansion of port facilities, for a busy winter.

Other ports have been busy too, many away beyond any activity of peace times.

Industries

Many local industries are employing more men. New Glasgow, Trenton, Amherst, Truro, Halifax and other places report larger payrolls. Such firms as wholesale food companies, candy manufacturers, two clothing companies, fish companies, laundries, and others have increased staffs. A number of these employees are women, and former employees are being recalled even if married.

The coal mines are now working steadily after much interruption due to labour troubles, through which 500,000 tons less will be mined than last year. Production of other metals is about the same, with a slight decrease in gold-mining.

There has been much ship repair work and a little shipbuilding. In Dartmouth a new ferry was constructed recently. A number of large scows are being built and a few schooners have been launched.

The building trades have been extremely active. Wherever there have been troop concentrations of any kind, there has been much construction work. The Dockyard has been another centre of great activity and a new Marine Railway was built at Dartmouth.

Shops and offices have been remodelled, and a number of new houses have gone up all over the country. In Halifax a large new High School is being erected.

War Time Housing

Among the largest projects has been that of Wartime Housing, Ltd. One of its most important developments in the Dominion has been in Halifax and Dartmouth. Nine hundred pre-fabricated, temporary houses have been erected, with 13 staff houses (for single men) and 2 dining halls. This has meant that whole new residential areas have sprung up. Other pre-fabricated houses have been built in Amherst.

The Skilled Trades

Because of the large amount of building, there is a distinct shortage of skilled workmen. The smaller places and country areas find it impossible to get carpenters, masons, electricians, etc. Even handymen are at a premium. Some of the schools are supplying boys to do small jobs for householders.

Many boys and girls are leaving school because they can get work. Many of the positions they get lead nowhere, and their future does not look reassuring after the war.

Women's Work

Women are being drawn into employment very rapidly. Stenographers are at a premium: "a stenographer who is any good at all has a job." Good waitresses cannot be found, clerks in shops, women for the candy and clothing industries, household workers, for the various "service" types of em-

ployment, are being absorbed swiftly. The Departments of National Defence employ many of these girls and women, while a few belong to the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps.

Social Problems

Dependency has decreased rapidly! Practically all the employable can secure work. Those still dependent are the ill, the old, and the mentally incapable. Halifax is giving out a very small amount of relief through one officer, to the people who apply at his office but no report is issued of the amount distributed monthly.

Social problems of the employables are cared for through the private social agencies. There are reports of broken homes through desertion, through misconduct of husband or wife; in others there is much friction, although no desertion. On the whole there seem to be more of such cases than in peace-time.

The *Children's Aid*, the *Welfare Bureau*, and some of the *Missions* report that a good many dependents of men in the forces need supervision; in some cases the funds are administered. In others, the wife may ask help in expending her income, or in buying food, etc. Women have found it difficult to make the income cover all needs where there are more than two children: where there are very many, the dependents' allowance simply would not stretch far enough. The extension of the allowance to this group will ease the situation.

The *Children's Aid* has to supervise a number of children of men in the services. This has increased their work considerably. There seems to be an increase in unmarried mothers, but what the percentage is cannot be established.

There are fewer transients, although the Salvation Army still reports a fair number, mostly men seeking work in the "busy east."

Delinquent, or at least troublesome, *children*, in the homes where the father is in the services, is a problem causing some anxiety.

The *Travellers' Aid Society* reports an exceptionally busy year. Single girls still flock to the city seeking work. The Y.W.C.A. and the Sisters of Service literally have used every inch of space to house and feed, and provide wholesome recreation. Many earn so little, that they can only be served by these organizations.

The increase of women in industry and their need for recreation is proving a new social problem which it is hard to meet, especially where many of them have to work, some, evenings.

Recreation for adults and children is a pressing problem. There is a great need among the adolescent girls and boys because of the increased tendency to delinquency. In Halifax an effort is being made to decentralize some of the recreation.

The *cost of living* is more of a problem than it was last year. Food and rent are extremely high in many places in eastern Canada, notably in Halifax. It is estimated

that food in Halifax costs 20% more than in Toronto; add high rents to this, and you have a serious situation. Price controls are welcomed.

Health problems have attracted much attention in the east. There have been epidemics of diphtheria, scarlet fever, meningitis, and lesser diseases, especially in Halifax. They have at times approached the proportions of a menace. The V.O.N. has been very busy everywhere with increased and fluctuating population adding new problems. In Halifax the City Department of Health has been reorganized, under a medical Commissioner, and nine nurses have been added.

The Maritimes

A new Mental Health Clinic is another advance in the treatment of physical and mental ills in this area.

The *housing shortage* in Nova Scotia has been acute, even the small towns reporting such a condition, and many houses are unfit for human habitation, a condition doubtless contributing to the epidemics of the last year.

Post-War Conditions

More and more, people are thinking and asking about "after the war".

In eastern Canada the situation will be especially serious. Thousands of men will be demobilized; industries will close down, or reduce their staffs materially; all the National Defence projects, now so important in our economy, will cease; the port will be "dead" once more, hundreds of women will be displaced, retail trade will take a slump. In the east we see dark clouds possible.

Added to this, will be the broken homes, the ones where there is dissension, restlessness, delinquency, the problems of illegitimacy, and all those that follow in the train of war.

If we can continue to support them, we have many more private and public social welfare agencies than we had after the last war, and they will help to alleviate conditions to some extent: but they cannot provide work for those who are without it. The spectre of wholesale unemployment is constantly before us: against that there must be planning.

La Vieille Province

EN CETTE fin d'année 1941, il y a plus de monde au travail que jamais dans l'histoire de la province de Québec. Dans bien des domaines, les bras commencent à se faire rares.

Effort de guerre

Tout d'abord, nombre des nôtres n'ont pas été lents à répondre à l'appel aux armes et il y a maintenant deux ans que nos premiers volontaires ont touché les rives de la Grande-Bretagne. D'autre part, les usines de guerre ont embauché tous les ouvriers spécialisés. Comme ailleurs, dans le cas des travaux de moindre importance, on a engagé des milliers de jeunes gens et de jeunes filles qui, le jour ou la nuit, apportent leur contribution à l'effort de guerre.

C'est un aspect du problème. En veut-on un autre? Ces milliers d'hommes, de jeunes gens, de jeunes filles gagnaient peu ou point à l'époque des années creuses de 1932, 1933, etc. Actuellement, ils reçoivent une paie hebdomadaire. Bien des pères de famille en ont profité pour refaire une lierie ou une garde-robe qui avait été réduite à sa plus simple expression, pour renouveler un mobilier qui avait subi l'usure du temps. Des jeunes gens et des jeunes filles trouvent le moyen de mettre au foyer un peu de soleil en aidant de vieux parents rendus au bout de leur

Un travailleur social, lui-même fils de la province de Québec, a bien voulu tracer pour nos lecteurs ce vivant tableau des conditions sociales actuelles.

ANONYME

carrière. Toute cette aide est digne de louanges.

Au sein de la famille

Mais, à côté de cela, combien de familles divisées! Un fils ou une fille, en recevant sa première paie a senti souffler un vent d'indépendance; un conseil paternel à l'économie a eu tôt fait d'irriter le nouveau salarié, qui décide alors d'aller planter ailleurs sa tente et de vivre désormais à ses dépens. Le plus souvent, c'est la porte ouverte à toutes les misères morales. Qu'arrivera-t-il lorsqu'il sera laissé à lui-même? Le pire est à redouter.

Nous pourrions en dire autant de ces jeunes gens et de ces jeunes filles qui ont quitté la campagne, attirés par le mirage de la ville et d'une vie facile. Si le recensement fédéral avait été fait cet hiver, au lieu de l'été dernier, l'on serait étonné de la dépopulation de nos campagnes. Tel est le cas d'un trop grand nombre de ceux qui ont trouvé dans les arsenaux le pain quotidien. Jamais ils ne retourneront à la terre.

Et dans nos villes, le sort des vieux abonnés au secours direct s'est-il amélioré? Loin de là, ils ont vu leurs allocations coupées. On leur a dit de s'en aller travailler en forêt. Qu'y feraient-ils? Ils avaient à peine la force d'aller chercher

leurs secours hebdomadaires et ils ont vieilli depuis la création de la "dole". Le problème n'est donc pas réglé et les abonnés au secours direct redeviennent les clients de la Société St-Vincent de Paul.

Et demain?

Nous ne voudrions pas être pessimistes, mais l'après-guerre nous réserve de douloureux jours. Il s'écoulera certes bien des mois et peut-être des années avant que les industries de guerre se transformant de nouveau en industries de paix. Les salariés des industries de guerre semblent imiter plutôt la cigale que la fourmi. Qui, demain, s'occupera d'eux? Ils se tourneront vers les services sociaux. Et nos services sociaux seront-ils suffisamment organisés pour faire face à la demande?

Dans la province de Québec, nous avons un peu partout des oeuvres sociales admirables, mais en dehors de Montréal, existe-t-il une cohésion, une collaboration véritables? Nous sommes au regret de constater que tel n'est pas le cas.

Pourquoi toutes nos oeuvres ne profiteraient-elles pas des mois qui vont suivre pour tenter de se connaître, de se coudoyer et de collaborer davantage?

S'imaginer-t-on le gaspillage de forces et d'efforts que cause cet isolement qui n'est pas voulu, mais qui provient de notre tempérament trop individualiste?

La fondation d'un Conseil des Oeuvres dans les principales villes de notre province ne ferait pas de mal aux oeuvres elles-mêmes. Loin de là, elle décuplerait leurs forces et leurs efficacité, tout en ne minant pas leur autonomie; ne serait-il pas bon de faire un loyal essai d'entraide?

Voeux pour 1942

A l'aurore de 1942, souhaitons que toutes nos oeuvres continuent de jouir auprès du public charitable, de l'appui qu'elles ont rencontré jusqu'ici. Les multiples appels en faveur des oeuvres de guerre, les impôts croissants, la hausse du coût de la vie, voilà tout autant de menaces qui peuvent compromettre l'existence de ces oeuvres. Raison de plus pour augmenter leur efficacité. Souhaitons donc que l'an nouveau fasse surgir partout des conseils des oeuvres. Puisse Dieu bénir les efforts de ces innombrables et obscurs travailleurs sociaux qui, chaque jour, consacrent leur vie à l'exercice de l'un des plus précieux conseils évangéliques.

In Upper Canada

No social agency is as widespread in Ontario as her 48 year old "C.A.S.". Their provincial superintendent speaks.

SOCIAL agencies to-day are at the crossroads. The generalship and adaptability with which they face the next few months will decide whether they are to maintain a strategic position in service on the home front or whether they will retire to comparative obscurity and ineffectiveness.

After long years of coping with depressed employment conditions they are now having to face problems created by almost unprecedented employment demands, and life under tension.

Within just over two years, all the vast machinery, created over a decade, to deal with unemployment seems practically unnecessary—practically, but not quite. There are still certain persons who require relief; persons of advanced age but ineligible for Old Age Pensions; those who are ill or handicapped and, so, unemployable. These groups represent under one per cent of the population.

Mother's Allowances and Old Age Pensions reflect some impact from increased employment, some recipients, becoming entirely self-supporting are therefore no longer in receipt of pensions assistance: others have become partially self-supporting, permitting of reduction in the aid granted.

The general improvement in employment conditions has also been

B. W. HEISE

reflected in the municipalities, the number "under supervision" shows marked recent reduction.

Social Aspects

The increase in employment has generally improved the economic status of individuals and families, and of our organized municipalities, but at the same time it has created different social problems.

In industrial centres, several members of a family are now employed where a short time ago no one was working. In many instances this includes both the mother and father. The demand for day care for small children creates long waiting lists in the creches and many earnest thoughtful hours have been spent by social workers trying to answer the question of what to do about it, without satisfactory solution to date.

Girls and boys are now finding opportunities for employment, previously denied them. The number of work permits, issued for children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, is increasing. There is considerable present debate as to whether the School Attendance Act and the Adolescent School Attendance Act should be amended to reduce the age for compulsory school attendance from sixteen to fourteen years. On this point social

workers will have very definite views. Have they been stated?

Many young persons over school-leaving age, who a short time ago found difficulty in obtaining any employment can now procure employment at an adult wage rate. Their inclination to spend this money freely if not wisely and their resultant psychological reaction against parental and other supervisory control, as a result of their new found independence, also pose problems with no solution yet apparent.

The demand for increased agricultural production can only be met by increased farm help. Enlistments and gravitation to war industries, have depleted the ranks of farm labourers. Vast new reserves must be found. Should school children be encouraged to assist on the farm by a reduction of the school year and promotion to the next grade in return for spending a given number of weeks in service with a land army? Pros and cons are freely argued.

New "Blobs" of Population

The establishment of new munitions plants in small communities or rural areas, with resultant congregation of large groups of employees there, bring problems of housing, of entertainment facilities, of transportation, and the multifarious other social maladjustments resulting from sudden heavy concentration of population. Certain of these industries are being established in areas where the social organizations have been small and limited in their scope

and resources, and the pressures already threaten to overwhelm them. Some of these plants are established on a temporary basis, and the population, growing up around them, may present difficulties upon future demobilization. Here again the social agencies will probably be called upon to lend assistance.

Similar circumstances prevail in areas, contiguous to military and air force training camps. Acute housing shortages have arisen in many and other social problems emerge for the local social agencies, superimposed by other than their regular resident population.

Child caring agencies are facing many challenges, perhaps changes and modifications in some of our well-founded practices. Protection cases, registered with Children's Aid Societies, have shown a rapid upsurge; commitment of wards has increased; at the same time the number of foster homes has decreased. It is much easier to provide for an adult boarder than it is to assume the care of a baby, particularly when the boarder will pay a higher rate of board than is possible in the limited budget of the Children's Agency.

The increase in illegitimate births also presents its special problems. Closely allied, as it is, with the increase in independence resultant from the better opportunities for employment, it thrusts new worries on the services concerned with the provision of adequate recreational outlets for youth.

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On the Prairie Lands

The competent and respected
assistant director of child
welfare for Manitoba contri-
butes a thoughtful review.

ELSIE J. LAWSON

"The East hath her genius and culture,
The West hath her vigor and brawn,
And one hath the glory of noonday
And one hath the splendor of dawn.
So God, give Thy smile to the Westland
Wherever a true heart abides.
And God, give Thy smile to the Eastland
And, blot out the line that divides."*

THIS MONTH a fellow social worker and I stood north of 53° on a clear, frosty evening "23 below", silently watching the play of the northern lights. My companion finally broke the silence: "That display is symbolic of our times. You see, it began with a bright dart over there, then others shot up to the right and left. Now you see all the shafts have fused into one vast illumination. That first streak represents the church. Cardinal Hinsley for the Roman Catholic Church, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for the Church of England and the heads of other churches have pledged themselves to work for five primary after-war adjustments—That extreme inequality in wealth and possessions must be studied and a natural remedy sought; that every child must have equal opportunities of complete education; that the family as a social unit shall be safeguarded; that the original concept that work is the Divine plan for replenishment of the earth must be restored; that men must come to see the earth's riches as God's common gift to all mankind.

"That second arrow represents our present day statesmen. Winston Churchill has said: 'Out of this war must come social benefits' and our own Prime Minister has said: 'Never again in our own land or in any other land, will the gods of material power, of worldly possession and of special privilege be permitted to exercise their sway.'

"That other bright dart represents the Press. For instance, in the November 11th, 1941, issue of the *Free Press*, we find: 'Canada and every other democratic country must adopt a forward social policy, which simply means a necessary regard for human welfare. Wages that do not provide a decent standard of living are the prolific cause of social evils—malnutrition, greater susceptibility to disease, impoverishment, due to weakness; poor housing, vice and crime.'

Those other columns of light represent organized labor, welfare federations, nurses, teachers, dieticians and social workers who have striven to secure fullness of life as the right of every human being.

*Wilson MacDonald.

Now you see they have all merged into one great illumination. Similarly, many social forces are becoming unified in their underlying theme that is, *that human welfare must come first*; and, now that the objective has, at least, become clear to all these groups, it is only a matter of time in working it through."

But what of the present outlook on the prairies? Manitoba has her old spirit back! Improvement in conditions are possibly due to: (1) *The developments in manufacturing*,—providing annually \$30 million in wages. (2) *The change in agriculture*—Manitoba is becoming a mixed farming country, no longer dependent upon wheat alone, 1940 returns from livestock, plus the companion dairy industry, being equal to farmer's returns from wheat. (3) *The growth of the mining industry*.

Since Winnipeg has some 1,100 working plants, it is not surprising that the unemployment relief list dropped from its peak in 1937 of 8,635 families to 539 at the end of October. Poverty due to idleness is disappearing first in the cities where industrial workers have been absorbed. More men will be needed with increased livestock production and an early man-power shortage is probable. A shortage of domestic workers is already apparent, probably heralding other social changes.

Under the war emergency training programme, 2,497 men were trained in Manitoba in the first nine months of this year. Educational requirements for many courses bring regret to many a boy who "quit school" before he reached Grade VIII. Training, vocational guidance, and employment should all benefit from the development of

the national Employment Service, under the Unemployment Insurance Act, to which the Manitoba provincial employment system was transferred in August with the Prairie Division office at Winnipeg.

Housing

Population has crowded about the new military training centres, Dauphin, Neepawa, Souris, Portage, etc., creating serious housing problems when the shortage of suitable homes is general throughout the Province. The situation reacts directly on child placement for many families, previously volunteering to care for overseas children, take in relatives while foster boarding mothers take in adult boarders.

Health

Though Manitoba stood second highest in Canada in youths physically fit for compulsory military training (67.7% as against 71.5% in Prince Edward Island) its citizens were sufficiently alarmed, at a third rejected, as to renew their public health efforts. A survey on public health services was made by the A.P.H.A. Health for Victory nutrition classes are under way and the Hospital Service Association is extending throughout the province. There is great interest in England's communal feeding and its possibilities for rural school children in Canada.

The Inadequate Family

Since the Federal Government discontinued its participation in unemployment relief and agricultural aid, the province has reimbursed to the municipalities up to 60% of the cost of unemployment relief, retroactive to March, 1941.

While unemployment is disappearing, there are still families who require assistance. Many are those of day labourers, with seasonal employment, very little education and, frequently, large families. The father in such a home finds it difficult to secure lodgings and, even if working full-time, could not meet his family's needs. Such families find life very baffling and are rarely encouraged to locate in any municipality. The children attend school irregularly,—they lack warm clothing for the severe climate and the school may be several miles away.

What can be done to help this type of family? Undoubtedly, something more constructive than continued relief is required. The Muskrat Scheme and the Wanless Settlement Plan in the north have demonstrated this beyond a doubt. The only solution for social inadequacy is supplementation of a constructive nature. Unfortunately, the poorest municipalities have the greater number of such cases.

In these days when waste is a crime, we must conserve our human resources as well as our material ones. Facing the problem seems to be the first step in its solution. The Protection Committee of one C.A.S. has decided definitely to

take this type of case in hand and see what can be done.

Family Desertion

With the lure of employment in other provinces, the whole problem of desertion, dormant during the depression years, is again rearing its ugly head. One rural Children's Aid Society reports six new cases.

The Canadian Welfare Council's leadership in seeking interprovincial reciprocal arrangements is indeed welcome and such inter-provincial arrangements might well include collection of support from fathers of children born out of wedlock. In some cases the alleged father, within ten minutes of prosecution, may be in Saskatchewan, beyond the jurisdiction of this province and only if he returns can action be taken.

The Dominion, through its agreements with each of the provinces, established a very satisfactory working arrangement between the provinces for the return of families on unemployment relief. Similar understandings prevail re old age pension payments and such arrangements would be of very great value in all types of social assistance, such as Mothers' Allowances where there is a wide range in adequacy in various provinces. A uniform standard for residence within the provinces would be beneficial. These problems would seem to indicate a need for some Dominion co-ordinating service, particularly now with recent Dominion-provincial adjustments of income and other tax changes.

Unmarried Persons

In spite of exaggeration, the actual increase in the number of unmarried mothers in 1940 was but 51—an increase of 10% in the total. One serious aspect of the problem is that 25% of these mothers were under 18 years of age, indicating quite clearly a most obvious area of need in the community.

Delinquency

It is only reasonable to expect that juvenile delinquency should rise during a period of war. During the last war, in England the number of juveniles under 16 years of age tried for indictable offences was 14,325; by 1917, the number had risen to a peak 24,407, an increase of nearly 59%. It then declined to 13,999 in 1919.

War conditions are not a primary cause of juvenile crime but they intensify almost all causes and enlarge the possibilities and extend the opportunities for its commission.

Adapting Service

Considerable study is needed as to whether the "treatment function"—or case work with delinquents—should be transferred from the juvenile courts to the administrative social agencies. The Juvenile Court for Dauphin entrusts this service to the Children's Aid Society—the only one in the province doing so. A child psychologist has been added to the C.A.S. staff to assist in this work, the Attorney-General's Department making a grant towards the services.

Economy in service and transportation costs is urgent in wartime. In rural social work, a worker may drive 100 miles to investigate a case, only to find it technically a case of delinquency, neglect or dependency, each of which has separate administrations. In other words, rural child welfare work must be generalized and only in the larger centres does specialization seem justifiable. Children are in need of service irrespective of their category.

Above the Poverty Line

The shift from need of economic aid to service is already evident, history repeating itself, in a way. While, undoubtedly, case work first developed to meet material need, following the first Great War the many cases requiring the treatment of emotional factors proved that case work could be divorced from economic needs. Today case work services are being rendered to soldiers' families, where there is no economic need. Investigations for dependents' allowances reveal many needs, other than financial ones, such as assistance in budgeting, help in dealing with a difficult adolescent child, character training in children, etc. So, one sees reduction of staff in public welfare departments, with diminishing relief rolls and increase in staff in service agencies such as The Family Bureau, Children's Aid and Child Welfare Division.

As in the last war, some soldiers are now returning after service abroad, to find an additional child in the home. Social work skills are

indeed necessary in such difficult situations. Often the mother wants to keep the child while her husband wants it removed and pleads that he may never be told the name of the father. These are not unmarried women, so no legal action can be taken regarding paternity, even if it were wise to do so. It was the policy of one of our Children's Aid Societies during the last war to remove all such children from the home, either before or after the father returned. How one longs for the benefit derived from some research work in social treatment in problems of this nature.

One worker tells of an irate father coming into the office with his wife and the child who had been born during his absence. The wife had been left in an isolated rural district with eight small children. The 'Flu broke out and all were taken ill. A nearby bachelor neighbour brought the wood and cared for the stock, soon becoming a frequent visitor to the home, and—. When the worker questioned the father as to his own behaviour overseas, he admitted the possibility of being the father of some other child. While this baby was taken under care, at least, moral equality had been established before the couple left the office to start their married life anew.

Wives, illicitly pregnant, are going to other parts of the province for confinement. Their plan is to have the baby adopted immediately, so that they may return to their usual place of residence, but placing

*Annual Meeting, Winnipeg Family Bureau, 1941.

a child for adoption requires the consent of both parents and such knowledge is most disturbing to the soldier-husband and no doubt weakens his morale. Education and character building seem to be necessary if we are to combat such problems as these.

Canada seems to have some appreciation of war's reconstruction problems, with a Dominion Committee constituted thereon, and the appointment of district Veterans' Service officers—Mr. W. Rumble of Brandon, being in charge in Manitoba.

Appreciation of Social Work

Undoubtedly, there is now a new acceptance and appreciation of social work as well as an increasing demand for efficiency in organization. The success of all the community appeals is evidence of this. From the far north to the border, the Police and Magistrates are using the services of the social workers more and more. A doctor in one of our cities refers all his domestic difficulty cases to the social agency. There seems to be a growing understanding between medical and social services.

Dr. W. C. Graham, Principal of Wesley College, has paid a great tribute to social workers*

"I think that perhaps the reason that contact with social workers always sets me up is because they display constantly what might be described as efficient morale. The thing we call morale is the strength which flows from moral character, but efficient morale is attained when we combine that strength with what Dean Briggs has des-

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On the Western Coast

The director of welfare for British Columbia 'air mailed' this bird's-eye view, a few hours before the Jap thrust brought such tensions there.

GEORGE DAVIDSON

THERE can only be one answer to the question, how are the welfare services on the Pacific Coast standing the strain now that we are leaving 1941 and entering upon the third and probably the most fateful year of the present struggle. The answer is, and must be, that on the whole the situation on the homefront is favourable rather than the reverse.

No one blinds himself to the reasons for this temporary improvement, nor does anyone overlook the fact that the future, especially during the post-war years, will be dark with foreboding and even heavy with storm clouds; but, be that as it may, there is no gainsaying the fact that the welfare services are still being accorded, in large measure their rightful place and meed of support in the community life of British Columbia. The reasons for this reassuring statement are, briefly, (1) in certain categories there has been a marked falling off in the load of public dependency; (2) in other fields the increase has not been as great as anticipated; (3) the new problems which have arisen, purely out of the war itself, have not presented any really insurmountable difficulties; (4) there has been no disposition, as yet, on the part of the public authorities to sacrifice the public welfare services, either municipally or provincially, by withdrawing necessary and vital

financial support; (5) the response from the general public to the appeals of the private welfare services has been more heartening than even the most optimistic had hoped.

A brief comment on these five salient points may serve to underline the reasons for the feeling of confidence with which welfare workers on the Pacific Coast have been facing the short-term outlook as we turn the corner into 1942.

Decline in Dependency

First of all, in regard to the significant falling-off in certain categories of public dependency, must be mentioned the continued and marked decline in the general relief rolls. The upturn of the pre-war years and the sudden upswing of the war years themselves had reduced the March 1933 peak load of 132,000 (18.5 per cent of the provincial population) to an all-time low in October, 1940, of slightly under 27,000. The seasonal rise, through the winter of 1940-41, brought the figure back to just under 32,000 in February, 1941; and while it was expected, as usual, that there would be a marked summer drop in 1941, the actual decrease exceeded all expectations. October returns show that the numbers on relief dropped well be-

low the 16,000 mark, and, while the upturn came as expected in the month of November, the indications are that the winter increase will be even slighter than usual.

All, or most of this, is, of course, due to the increased demands being made upon the productive capacity of Canada and of British Columbia by the grinding wheels of war, along with the demands being made for man power by the military forces. No one is so foolish as to assume, even for a moment, that the basic problems which plagued our footsteps during the last decade of peace have been solved in any way by this liquidation of our relief rolls.

One or two questions, however, which did baffle social workers and relief administrators during the depression years, seem now, in the crucible of war, to be approaching at least a partial solution. Is there a hard core of unemployables? Who are the unemployables? These two questions now appear to be susceptible of at least a partially intelligible answer. Three years of war have taught us that there is, indeed, a relatively hard core of unemployables, whom no amount of "prosperity" will take off the rolls of public dependency. It has taught us, also, however, that this hard core is much smaller than many would have thought. In British Columbia, for example, there has been a marked decrease, not only in the group known as the employables on relief, but also in the unemployable group itself. Even after war broke out the totals of unemployables (including depend-

ents) listed on relief rolls approximated 10,000 or more; in October, 1941, they totalled less than 8,400, a decline of approximately 16 per cent in the group of persons, hitherto popularly assumed to have been incapable of self-support.

This phenomenon is also apparent in regard to the mothers' allowance case load, where "totally disabled" husbands have suddenly obtained employment and begun to support their families again.

We know now, therefore, that some of the ideas we had about unemployability are less valid than we previously assumed; and it should be possible, by careful analysis of current relief rolls in these days of intensive employment opportunity, to get a fairly clear picture of the really unemployable group in our dependent population.

The relief rolls, however, are not the only ones to show the effects of the war economy in terms of greatly reduced case loads. Ever since war broke out there has been an unmistakable indication of decline in the mothers' allowance case load. This has been accentuated, particularly, during recent months and the total case load in October, 1941, was actually between 10 and 15 per cent lower than the all-time high of November, 1939.

The reasons for this are basically the same as for the unemployment relief picture: greater employment opportunities, leading to fewer initial applications, leading, likewise, to employment of over-age children in mothers' allowance families, or to employment of the

mothers themselves, and, in some cases, the disabled husbands; enlistments in mothers' allowance families and the consequent benefits of assigned pay and dependents' allowance have played a part, too, but actually a fairly small part, in this decrease. It is understood that decreases in mothers' allowance case loads are fairly typical of the situation all across Canada.

Elsewhere the case load trend is still slightly upward, but there is little to indicate a situation out of the ordinary. The monthly case loads in old age pensions, as in War Veterans' Allowances, continue to increase slowly, but there are indications that the rate of increase is slowly levelling off. On the other hand, the number of persons in receipt of war veterans' unemployment assistance has been reduced 75 per cent. since September, 1939.

Children's Services

In child welfare the number of children actually in care has shown little variation from the previous year. Work in adoptions continues to show increased demand caused by the war situation, but except for certain special problems arising out of dependents' allowance regulations, procedures and standards in this field are being successfully maintained.

There is evident considerable increase in work with unmarried mothers, which has led to the assumption that war has brought an increase in illegitimacy. There does not seem to be any statistical evidence to support this in British Columbia, and the alternative

assumption is probably correct, namely, that because of the large amount of employment and the large number of men in the armed forces, agreements and court orders under the Unmarried Parents Act are more easily obtained than in the comparatively lean years of the depression.

New Problems

Most of the new problems which have arisen since the war have familiar angles; they relate, primarily, to the fields of dependents' allowance, housing, recreational outlets for the military and industrial forces, and the pinch of the steadily rising cost of living.

Relief scales, twice increased since the outbreak of war, reflect the only attempt thus far made in B.C. to cope with the situation brought about by the steadily increasing cost of living in the field of public dependency. Unless the recently announced Federal policy serves to check prices at present levels, it is inevitable that the scales of mothers' allowance will also have to be revised. The same applies to old age pensions, but there seems to be little hope of action in this field as governments argue back and forth and endeavour to shift responsibility from one to the other.

In view of the chaotic political situation in British Columbia, as this review is written, no one can prophesy what the future holds for the public welfare services. This much, however, can be said, that up to the end of 1941 the welfare services have been recognized as

indispensable factors in our community life and there has been, as yet, no disposition to make drastic reductions in such public expenditures.

It might be thought that the public welfare services in British Columbia would be in a vulnerable position because of the comparatively high level, they have reached, in comparison with the general level of expenditure on similar services across Canada. To date, however, there has been no tendency to exploit this fact for the purpose of forcing retrenchment in any vital service. This recognition, by the public authority, of the importance of maintaining the welfare sector of the home front, at as high a level in war-time as before, is buttressed by the evident disposition of the general public to take the same stand so far as the private welfare services are concerned.

Never in the history of private welfare effort has the same measure

of support been accorded to private agencies as in the years since war began. The fears of those, on whom the Community Chest campaigns late in 1941, rested, in Vancouver and in Victoria now seem to have been groundless indeed, since the voluntary support of the services, included in these, exceeded objectives by the most substantial margins in history.

The temper of the people, as expressed by their support for private welfare effort, and in other ways, is obviously such that welfare leaders in the public and private services may well feel, as they look forward into 1942, that support, both financial and otherwise, for the baffling social service problems that lie ahead will not be lacking, so far as the Canadian people are concerned, if leadership is available that is capable of meeting the challenge.

The tremendous convulsions of a world, in flames, brings Canada's far northern "tenth province" into new significance.

Yukon and The Territories

THERE are few more thrilling stories of our race than that of British penetration into these far northlands, — trappers, traders, missionaries who eventually established the Crown's claims westward to Alaska and the Pacific, northward to the shores of the most distant islands, southward to the 49 parallel.

JOSEPH E. LAYCOCK

Romance, too, crowds about the transfer, by Great Britain in 1869, of all the vast areas, east of the Rockies, to the new Dominion, upon compensation, by the latter, to the Hudson Bay Company for its surrender of certain rights and privileges, held under charter of

1670. Out of these areas, three provinces were later created—Manitoba in 1870, Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905—and hundreds of thousands of square miles added to Ontario and Quebec. Yet today, two-fifths of the Dominion's domain are comprised in these unorganized territories, with but 10,000 population, excluding Indians and Eskimos.

Government

Here in the Territories, executive government survives, reminiscent of earlier stages in Canada's constitutional development. But the Yukon enjoys representation in the Dominion House of Commons and an elective Council of three members, with power to levy and assess for local purposes,—school, welfare and general administration. The Yukon Commissioner is a Dominion appointee.

The Territories, however, are administered by a Council of Dominion appointees, representative of the major services, concerned therein,—Mines and Resources, Indian Affairs, Royal Mounted Police, etc.—with Major "Dave" McKeand, its veteran secretary. The Yellow Knife area enjoys a local Council of Limited jurisdiction.

The Ordinances of both Councils—the Yukon and the "N.W.T." have all the force of law.

Development

The "new north" is relatively old in development, its staple product, furs, having been exported for centuries, and its mineral wealth for decades though the new ven-

ture of large scale reindeer grazing has yet to prove its economic value. The potential wealth of its minerals has yet to be established. The Yukon gold boom in 1896 passed, but gold is still being profitably mined in the Klondike area, and silver in the Mayo district. Interest at the present time centres in the Mackenzie territory, where valuable mines have been opened up in the region of Great Bear Lake. Aeroplane traffic has shortened distances tremendously, with heavy freight of all kinds routed from Edmonton to the far north. Not only is the volume of this business likely to increase, but passenger service develop and northern air bases become permanently valuable in more than one aspect of our life.

There are thousands of square miles of fertile land, covered by spruce forests in the Yukon and the Mackenzie River Basin. Field crops are grown in limited quantities around missions and fur-trading posts in the southern part of the latter. Garden products flourish luxuriantly in the long summer days. A few cattle are kept and there is a possibility of developing a permanent cross between domestic breeds and buffalo. But no sustained effort can be expected in the exploitation of agricultural resources for a long time to come.

Community Resources

Good schools, leading to matriculation, exist in Dawson and Whitehorse, a public school in Mayo, and other schools in Car-

cross, Carmacks and Keno City. In the new mining area of the North West Territories, problems of education, hospitalization and relief of the destitute are emerging. In the Yukon there are medical health officers in the northern and southern territory. Hospital services are good in Dawson, Whitehorse and Mayo. Throughout the whole region, Anglican and Roman Catholic missions have long given outstanding religious, educational, and philanthropic service.

The Mounted Police maintain law enforcement on a high level, but assume an almost personal interest and responsibility in individual welfare in the threat of need or sickness, with a personal knowledge of most of the inhabitants, surpassing that of trader or missionary. Their patrols are no routine procedure but a strong link in the social resources of the Territories.

In these small settlements where everybody knows the other, welfare needs are usually met through this co-operation of the Mounties with the churches, or the voluntary organization of private citizens. There is a general understanding of human needs and suffering, often reaching a deeper level, than in communities, where men and women have endured fewer hardships and shared less together.

Child Care

While formal child protection legislation does not exist as such, sections in the judicature ordi-

nances of both the Yukon and the North West Territories cover the guardianship of children. Anywhere in the Territories a court may appoint a guardian for a child without legal guardians; the consent of the child is required if he is over fourteen years of age. An order for maintenance may be made from the child's estate, but otherwise no maintenance is available. If the appointed guardian is not satisfactory, he may be replaced. Children may be apprenticed by their guardian under certain circumstances. Relative few cases of guardianship transfer arise.

In 1915 the Yukon Council passed ordinances authorizing "curfew Districts" if four-fifths of the parents in any community of more than one hundred people petitioned for it. Thereupon, no children under fifteen years of age within the district are allowed on the streets after 9.00 p.m. in winter or 10.00 p.m. in summer. In September 1941, the Council of the North West Territories gave authority to local districts, organized with Local Trustee Boards, to define the hours during which children below a specified age might be upon the streets.

Under a Yukon Ordinance of 1938, a destitute or deserted wife may make an application for a maintenance order before any magistrate, and the latter, after hearing, may order the husband to pay monthly maintenance for his wife and infant children. Arrangements are provided for ad-

justments when the wife has money of her own and for variation in such order on proof of changed circumstances. If, because of adultery or other reasons, an order is not deemed desirable for the wife, it may still issue for the maintenance of the children, and in favour of any person having their care and custody.

In the same year, a more inclusive maintenance ordinance was passed in the North West Territories, under which the husband, wife, father, mother and children of every old, blind, lame, mentally deficient or impotent person is liable for their maintenance including adequate food, clothing, medical aid and lodging. Fathers and mothers of children, under sixteen years of age, are similarly liable for suitable maintenance. An application for an order may be made by a member of the clergy or by any informed person in the settlement in which the destitute person resides. After hearing, a Justice of the Peace may order provision of maintenance or care for the person in need in a home, hospital or other institution. Such orders may be varied on the presentation of new evidence. Under this ordinance, a mother or an expectant mother may make application for a maintenance order upon declaration of affiliation of an illegitimate child. The Justice of the Peace may, if satisfied on the evidence, issue an order for maintenance against the alleged father, but such order must be made within twelve months of the birth

of the child unless it be shown the father has already paid voluntarily towards the child's maintenance.

In October 1941, the N.W.T. Council passed an ordinance whereby any unmarried person over twenty-one years of age, or a husband and wife jointly, might make application to adopt a child. The magistrate, in considering the application, must satisfy himself of the ability of the petitioner or petitioners properly to bring up and educate the child. He is also enjoined to consider the welfare of the infant, the interests of the natural parents if living, and generally the fitness and propriety of the adoption. The legislation conforms to sound practice in its clauses bearing on consent, record, property and inheritance rights, etc. Social deficiencies in the provision are due to the practical limitations in community development, and common sense suggests that some of them can be waived with less danger than in larger communities.

Our "northern fringe—in reality a whole northern kingdom—is beginning to evidence the inevitable complications of modern community life, with its clotting of social maladjustments, and consequent laws and services to meet them. Population and problems are bound to increase with the present significance of the resources and strategic value of these great territories. Canada is fortunate indeed in the common sense and practical humanity, that residents and administrators in the broad northland, are showing.

For a whole generation now Canada has owed much to the sanity and clarity of judgment of the veteran president of the Trades and Labour Congress.

Conserving Human Resources

WAR-TIME conditions demand that the energies of combatant nations be devoted, in the greatest possible measure, to ensuring victory. This is especially true in the present all-out struggle threatening the very foundations of our civilization. There can be no diffusion of effort allowed which would detract from this all important duty or prolong the duration of the war, with resultant unnecessary destruction of life and resources.

But while the slogan of the first Great War, "Business as Usual," is inapplicable in the present conflict, it would be fatal to ignore the fact that the maintenance of the highest possible standards of physical and moral health, particularly among young people, is imperative both for success of the war effort and for the ensuring of the welfare of the community afterwards.

Facts Convict

We may hide our sins as we will, but their penalties are inescapable. I do not know why the phrase "chickens come home to roost" should convey a sinister meaning, since home seems to be the proper place for them to roost, and you value your chickens! However, the dire significance, usually associated with the phrase, is abundantly supported by the toll now being exacted for the unpardonable neglect of the interests of youth during the depression period.

TOM MOORE

The Honourable J. T. Thorson, Minister of National War Services, speaking in the House of Commons during the recent sitting, made a courageous confession of Canada's shame when he reported: "The calling up of men for military training has revealed that the state of health of Canada's youth is much below what might properly be considered the standard of fitness for young men in a virile nation. Out of a total of 217,588 men examined up to October 2nd, 1941, only about 56% were placed in category A, the only category that is accepted for training at the present time by the Department of National Defence."

Apologists seek to minimise this indictment by insisting that the standard established by the Department of National Defence is very high, but obviously it is no higher than the demand requires. Moreover, the same lack of physical qualifications has been disclosed in the United States.

Faced with such a tell-tale fact, we may try to salve our consciences as we will, but unless we permit its full significance to arouse us from complacent indifference to an acceptance of our plain communal duty, physical and moral deterioration will continue. Alibis and ex-

cuses will only serve to perpetuate the evil.

Malnutrition—the lack of sufficient and proper food—along with inadequate housing accommodation, due to poverty occasioned by involuntary unemployment, are the primary causes of the tragic conditions exposed by these figures. There are, however, subsidiary factors that are the direct off spring and that materially augment the pernicious tendencies of poverty when such conditions are merely alleviated by substandard charity provisions. The influence of home, school and other cultural agencies is weakened. Wayward habits that exact their disastrous toll are formed. Wild oats are sown and produce their inevitable crop. Moral values are re-assessed downwards.

War Repercussions

As a result of the industrial expansion necessitated to meet the requirements of war, employment is abundant and unemployment temporarily reduced to a minimum. There being no food rationing such as exists in the Mother Country, the increased earnings of the workers, as a whole, have been reflected in the greater amount of food being consumed and thus to some extent the evils of malnutrition have been reduced. On the other hand, the shifts of population to industrial centres have intensified the housing problem, with all its attendant evils.

Another factor, which is bound to leave its imprint on the younger generation, is the disturbance of normal family life. Several hundred

thousands of homes have been bereft of paternal influence with heads of families responding to their country's call for men to serve in the armed forces. The intensified demand of industry has necessitated the transfer of many thousands of fathers and adult breadwinners to districts remote from their homes, thus involving the maintenance of two homes for divided families.

In many of these instances of enlisted men and industrial workers, income is insufficient to meet the need for the proper sustenance of their families, but, even here, the assistance of wisely directed social helpfulness is needed. Beyond the meeting of material needs, however, many of these hundreds of thousands of homes, that have lost for the time being the directive control of the family head, need to have that loss restored in as large a degree as may be possible by the care of competent, socially-minded counsellors. Otherwise, family interests will inevitably deteriorate.

Another illustration of the new or intensified problems occasioned by war conditions is that of possible blind-alley employment. War-time industry and the complete absorption of available skilled adult workers has resulted in the reorganization of industrial establishments on a highly specialized scale. These processes have created employment for many thousands of young people who have only received a modicum of training to fit them for the performance of comparatively simple and wholly routine

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The Health of the People

The chief executive assistant, in the Public Health Division of the Department of Pensions and National Health, refrains from prophecy but—!

WHEN contemplating the probabilities or possibilities of the dissemination of communicable diseases during this third winter of the War, one hesitates to play the part of a prophet. For example, there were fears, during the period of depression that, with so much unemployment, there would be an increase in the communicable diseases and especially in tuberculosis, but this did not prove to be the case. At no time in the history of public health were there fewer deaths from communicable diseases than during that decade. Each year saw a progressive diminution in the number of deaths from those diseases and from tuberculosis. This was undoubtedly due to the cumulative effects of public health preventive measures and their mo-

J. J. HEAGERTY, M.D.

mentum, no doubt, will continue in spite of war and the hazards associated with the war effort.

War Hazards

Nevertheless, there are special hazards, during the war period, demanding special attention from the field of preventive medicine. The health of munition workers is one of concern as they are exposed to special risks. They work in an atmosphere, associated with toxic substances—the unavoidable product of the manufacture of munitions, and, although special precautions are taken to protect these hazards, the latter are not perfect. The responsibility of safeguarding their health has been placed in the hands of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the De-

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tasks. In other words, these youthful workers have virtually entered blind-alley occupations from which a large number cannot hope to escape by their own unaided efforts. No demand for such service as they will be competent to render will exist after the war, and unless organized effort is directed toward providing supplemental training to fit them for useful peace-time employment, there will be grave danger of them sinking

into the morass of the industrially unwanted with the inevitably disastrous social consequences.

To cope with these and many other similar problems, coordinated effort is required and in the planning for such, established welfare organizations with their vast fund of accumulated experience and their trained personnel are now playing and must continue to play, an important part.

partment of Pensions and National Health. A clause, in all munition contracts, which makes the Minister of Pensions and National Health responsible for safeguarding the health of munition workers and seeing that adequate medical services are provided. However, the most basic and fundamental requirement of good health among munition workers, that of good nutrition, has not received adequate consideration although some steps have been taken. Little attention has been paid to the health of office workers who are working long hours without adequate diet, exercise and rest and these problems are causing concern to health officials.

What applies to munition workers and office workers is also generally applicable during this period of stress and strain. Apart from our daily work, there is a mental hazard, occasioned by the daily and hourly dissemination of war news which at times tend to depression, although this is counteracted to some extent by the feeling, all of us possess, of ultimate victory.

A 'Flu Epidemic?

A reduction of the standard of health of people during war due to anxiety and malnutrition leaves the door open to communicable diseases. At the end of the last war influenza fed upon the debilitated peoples of Europe, spread throughout the world and caused many millions of deaths. At a recent meeting of the American Public Health Association held in October

at Atlantic City, attention was called to the grave possibility of an epidemic of influenza during this winter. It was thought that we were on the threshold of an outbreak of that disease which might sweep through the country, possibly repeating the story of 1918, when it caused 30,000 deaths in Canada.

Whether an epidemic of influenza will occur this year or next, it is impossible to predict. During the 1918 epidemic the disease was at its peak in November. At that time there were 150 deaths each day in the City of Montreal. The epidemic ceased with the coming of winter. Were we on the threshold of an epidemic of influenza, it would appear that we should have some indication of it at the present time. One can only assume that there will not be a widespread epidemic during this coming winter but, again, one does not like to prophesy.

Other Threats

It was anticipated that in England there would be epidemics of influenza, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and meningitis, due to massing of people in the shelters but, though there was an increase in these diseases, they did not reach epidemic proportions. In some sections of Canada there has been a definite increase in the number of cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever and meningitis. This was to be expected due to the concentration of troops in certain areas but there has been no widespread epidemic among the civil population.

In Europe one may anticipate widespread outbreaks of typhus fever, typhoid, paratyphoid and dysentery as a result of the Germano-Russian campaign, but the extraordinary precautions taken at our ports will undoubtedly prevent the entrance of these diseases into our country. Nor, should they find their way into the country, are they likely to spread widely in view of the sanitary facilities that now exist.

Long-Term Plans

In the month of June last, by instruction of the Honourable Ian Mackenzie, Minister of Pensions and National Health, a meeting of public health officials and representatives of the medical profession was held to discuss present-day deficiencies in the field of public health and the adoption of measures to raise the standard of public health and medical services. This was one of the most important public health conferences ever held in Canada and from it will emanate a long-term programme in the prevention and control of disease that should be of particular value during wartime and the post-war period.

Among the facts brought to light at this meeting was that eighty per cent of children suffer from physical conditions and defects that are associated with malnutrition. The rejections that have taken place among applicants for enlistment indicate that malnutrition is general among the young generation. Medical services were shown to be inadequate as an unduly large per-

centage of the population does not receive minimum medical attention. The low standard of health of the youth of this country, as indicated by physical defects, leaves them open to communicable diseases.

There are two problems that confront us at this time: the correction of physical defects and the general improvement of the standard of health by adequate diet.

An effort is being made to improve the quality of bread through a co-operative effort on the part of the Department of Agriculture, the millers of Canada and the Department of Pensions and National Health. All three are engaged in endeavouring to produce a white flour that will contain the maximum amount of the Vitamin B complex.

Under the auspices of the Canadian Council on Nutrition, an educational campaign on nutrition is being undertaken.

To sum up,—we may expect this winter an increase in the number of cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, meningitis and influenza but there need not be any alarm that any of these will become epidemic and sweep through the civilian population. During this winter our efforts will be directed to the provision of adequate food supplies for the population, the dissemination of education in regard to dietary habits and the proper preparation of foodstuffs with the object of increasing the resistance of the population to disease. A special effort

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The Hospital —A Home Defence

IT IS A familiar story. The small wage, carefully administered, has been budgetted to maintain self respect, to provide for family essentials, and still permit a certain pride in contributing in a small way to community obligations. But suddenly, without warning, there comes the sickness blitzkrieg. Father, mother and children all require hospitalization within the one year, and the pride of independence is dimmed by the necessity of becoming a public charge, or worrying over hospital bills.

One family, by itself, cannot predict what its average hospital cost will be; a group of families can and it was to obtain such a group that the Kingston Community Hospital Plan was organized. It was a popular scheme and during the period of its application it provided assistance in the paying of over fifteen hundred hospital accounts. The plan was terminated this year when the local committee had the opportunity of substituting in its place "benefit anywhere" plans as sponsored by the Ontario Hospital Association.

For some time a special committee of the Association had been working on a plan for prepayment of accounts for hospital care. They approached the problem with caution, and with due regard for the family welfare. It was this latter consideration which led to

FRASER ARMSTRONG

the decision that any plan which protected only the bread-winner was not adequate. It must, in addition, give protection to his dependents. More than this, it must provide, without respect to the size of the family, protection for each member of the family at one inclusive membership fee and it must be a non-profit scheme. In other words, it must be a citizen welfare movement. This fundamental requirement was stressed when experienced consultants from the United States were engaged to assist in its framing.

Actuarial Safeguards

Quite rightly, these advisers considered the actuarial safety of the scheme. They pointed out that it was the small wage earner who required the protection; but if these citizens could join as individuals those who knew that hospitalization was pending would join at once, and those who believed they could not be sick would postpone joining. Such a situation would require prohibitive membership fees if an actuarially sound scheme were to be provided. So, the advisers proposed membership through employee groups, whereby no employee or his dependents would be accepted unless a certain proportion of his associates joined also. This averaged the risk.

But the limiting of membership to employee and organized groups did not entirely answer the welfare problem. It made it difficult to arrange protection for the farmer, the corner grocer, the soldiers' dependents, domestics in private service and for the many others who could hardly qualify for enrollment under the employee group limitation. The Ontario Hospital Association was anxious to do something for these citizens, but hesitated on account of the possibilities of exploitation.

Co-operation with the Kingston Plan seemed to offer the opportunity to experiment in the individual form of enrollment, particularly as certain unique features of this plan had demonstrated a control which had proved satisfactory. Applications for membership were accepted only during a fourteen-day period in each year. This largely eliminated applications from those whose need for hospitalization was imminent. At the expiration of the 14-day period, the citizen who neglected to join, would have no opportunity of doing so until the next year. This enrollment feature, combined with the policy of making the member a consumer partner rather than a full purchaser of hospital service, had demonstrated, by a seven years' test, that a hospital benefit plan can be open to individual family enrollment and yet remain actuarially sound.

Fees and Rates

The Ontario Hospital Association had committed itself to a policy of full coverage. In this it differed

from the Kingston plan which was an assisting or partnership scheme leaving a portion of the responsibility with the member receiving hospital care. The Association offered two plans at different membership fees. The one, known as the "Standard Plan" provided the equivalent of full ordinary public ward care to the employee and his family for a monthly fee of \$1.00. The other, the "Semi-Private Plan" guaranteed full ordinary coverage in a semi-private accommodation, and for this the membership fee for the family was \$1.50 per month. The employee could enroll himself alone for one-half the family fee.

The Ontario Hospital Association recognized that the partnership feature of the Kingston Plan presented a deterrent against the danger of exploitation. There was, therefore, the hesitation in offering their full coverage policy for general individual enrollment. But there was a realization also of the safety factor which came from Kingston's unique policy of accepting membership during a two week period only in any one year and the fact that Kingston had an organized group of 3600 members representing a good average cross-section of the community. The Association therefore offered their plans to the Kingston Committee on the following conditions: first, general enrollment would be offered for the 14-day period only in each year; second, the minimum initial fee accepted would be for three months' coverage; and third, the regular employee group enrollment would

be carried on during the campaign and be available at all times and applied in the usual way. The Kingston Committee accepted the offer.

It is human nature to want to choose what one wants himself. Kingston citizens had been used to this privilege under their own hospital plan and knew definitely what credit value the membership in the plan gave them when they made their own choice of higher priced accommodation whether it was private or semi-private. The Ontario plans gave the same privilege but their promise—"can choose higher priced accommodation by paying difference in cost"—was a bit indefinite. The local campaign committee realized that this indefinite assurance provided a sales approach handicap and the opportunity for future administrative misunderstandings. So they insisted that the two local hospitals place a definite money value on the plan benefits. This gave the prospective purchaser of service a definite knowledge of the "difference in cost" he would have to pay when he used the privilege of choosing higher priced hospital accommodation at regular rates.

The definite understandings as above contributed to the popularity of the new offerings. There was also the confidence coming from a satisfaction of seven years and the prestige which the sponsoring by the Ontario Hospital Association brought. The enrollment period

was from October 6th until October 20th. The local press co-operated in publicizing the plans. The Committee was particularly indebted to the Kingston Chamber of Commerce and to one well-known public speaker who, being interested in the success of such social plans, came to Kingston and donated one week of her time to addressing organizations and service clubs. The membership privilege was limited to a 25 mile radius around Kingston, this embracing a population of about 60,000. Eleven thousand citizens, or approximately 15% of the population concerned, joined. When it is recognized that substantial numbers of the local population, such as University students and soldiers, are protected under other hospital benefits, it means that at least 25% of the Kingston area population is now protected by some form of hospital benefit. This is exclusive also of the municipal indigent groups.

The Kingston experiment will be watched carefully. The special enrollment for the two week period, supplemented by the regular employee participation over the whole year, adequately meets the community need. If the features affecting exploitation are successful, as they have been in the past and the experiment is a success, it will be offered in other centres so that they, too, may find the answer to the family and citizen problem of meeting expenses for hospital care.

One of the N.W.A.'s district secretaries, etches war's tracings in the life of Toronto, a great city, greatly affected by the war.

The Family— A Nation's Citadel

WAR may be compared to an organism which grows, spreads, uses its environment for its own ends and so changes the character of the environment itself. We Canadians are part of the environment of this war; it has certainly changed our lives and by these changes has produced or accentuated many disturbances which need the services of a family agency.

War seizes, for its own purpose, the lives of men, women and children. Some men have enlisted, leaving their wives and children alone; others are now working and their wages, whether large or small, are influencing family life; children are reacting to the general unrest and to new opportunities of employment.

The Soldier's Home

The effects of enlistment are many. In some instances, usually after a long period of unemployment, there is a sense of relief that the husband is out of the home, very often followed by a new appreciation of good qualities, submerged under discouragement. There was too, the satisfaction of an assured income which looked much more adequate at first than it has turned out to be. By actual comparison with the amount of public relief given in Toronto, we have found that families with more

MRS. A. B. HALL

than five children were financially better off on relief than if on the amount of the allowance up to November 1st, which was the maximum for a wife and two children.

The creditors who took no action, while a man was unemployed, now demand regular payments and it has taken more than all the ingenuity of the family case-worker to help balance the budget, even with the assistance of private relief funds. This has become increasingly difficult as living costs have risen, and has aroused resentment on the part of many soldiers' wives who feel that their allowance is regarded by some people almost as a "dole." The Dominion civil service ruling, rendering eligible for cost of living bonus, public employees earning up to \$2000 has served to increase this resentment. There is no glory to this war for many soldiers' wives who get no thrill out of material sacrifice for their country. Worry is accentuated by loneliness, frequently by illness, by the responsibility of being both parents to the children, and many a soldier's wife feels bitterly the more or less general assumption that just because she is a soldier's wife she naturally is "stepping out." That there is this assumption is evidenced by the extreme diffi-

culty that many have in securing living quarters, because landlords do not want them as tenants; another reason is, of course, the fact that landlords do not feel as free to evict them if it should become necessary.

Administration of pay and allowances is a gradually increasing and serious responsibility. We realize that we deprive a woman of her independence in spending her own allowance, and that there should be intensive supervision before this is done with our whole treatment afterward, directed toward restoration of her self-reliance. The amount of time and work involved is heavy, particularly when, as often happens, the client is mentally defective.

The Civilian Home

In civilian families we find much the same sort of problems. The adjustment to work after long unemployment has been most encouraging. This may be due, partly, to the fact that many men who had been unemployed for years enlisted during the early days of the war, but it proves, too, unexpected resilience in our people. On the whole, wages are not high; where older children are working, circumstances are undoubtedly improved and it has been a joy to many families to replenish, even in a small way, the household supplies that had almost vanished. Few of the families however, are able to save systematically.

The employment of women has created the problem of overtired mothers and inadequate supervision

of children. One factor in this is compulsion to work, the urge to be independent, even of help from the family agency, although this has been offered many times to save the mother from working.

Industrial Angles

A fairly large group of non-Anglo-Saxon men cannot get work, particularly war work, because of their nationality.

In our contacts with many men and women, there is evident an apparent lack of sufficient interpretation by employers of the Unemployment Insurance Act, the contributions seeming, to many wage-earners, to be just one more thing to pay.

We cannot help being concerned over the large number of boys and girls who are going to work at any sort of job where they usually receive little or no training and so are creating a potential army of unskilled workers for after the war. More than five hundred left one technical school, alone, last year.

The Shifted Home

The shift in population, following military camps and factories, has brought difficulties. Rural families face the greater complexity of city life, and city families the loneliness of the country, missing too the private agency with its supporting contact and the supplementing of their income at need. The housing shortage is acute, rents high and living conditions sometimes deplorable. When a man leaves his family behind we do not always see the difficulties involved

in, what seems to us, so simple a task as letter writing. Many cannot write, and for others the actual physical difficulty of writing and the equally serious inability of the writer so to express his or her feelings makes it easy for misunderstandings to arise, and as time goes on separation widens the breach.

Still on Relief

In the pressure of working with families on military allowances or inadequate incomes, we tend to forget families still on relief, discouraged and almost hopeless. The family worker often feels that they need help even more than the other groups, not merely because of inadequate relief but because they feel so out of things now, unable above all to contribute their share to the war effort.

Down the Road

What lies ahead? The discharged soldier is coming in increasing numbers, disappointed and frustrated, often ill in body and mind, finding it difficult to adjust to civilian life and employment after the routine of army life.

The number of near-protection cases is on the increase and the average worker in the private family agency views this increase almost with dread, as case-workers have clung so firmly to the ideal of the right of a client to direct his own life that it is going to be difficult to undertake the authoritative role of representing community feeling or the Dependents' Allowance Board, in order to safeguard the children's rights. This new authority calls for tact and wisdom.

Undoubtedly every family case-worker is daily becoming even more conscious of the value to the community of happy family life, as we see the unhappiness and unrest about us. To use a hackneyed term, "stabilization of family life" is our job. In some families an adequate income seems to settle most difficulties, in others it makes them more acute. How much we need more skill and understanding in human emotions and behaviour. As Margaret Rich once said, "The only tool which the case worker can control is her own personality and skill." We all face the coming year with the determination to improve that tool to the best of our ability.

COMMUNITY CHEST RESULTS

REASONABLY final returns indicate that a total of approximately \$4,730,000 was raised by 23 community campaigns in 17 cities during the year 1941.

Last year's grand total of \$4,856,256 included \$658,910 for War Services, this comparable total in 1941 being only \$193,230.

Five new campaigns were conducted in 1941—in Lachine, Kingston, Kitchener-Waterloo, Brandon, and Edmonton,—raising \$239,232. On the other hand, Galt, Oshawa, and Sault Ste. Marie which raised \$254,444 in 1940 deferred appeals.

Allowing for these reconciliations, of "ons" and "offs" and adjustments in war service budgets, the base figure in 1940 is \$3,942,900 raised for community work only, compared with \$4,297,900 for these purposes in 1941—an increase of practically 10%.

The Protection of Our Children

NORA LEA

The supervisor of the family protection division in the oldest and largest C.A.S.—Toronto's—tells her tale.

“CANADIAN WELFARE” has asked me to prepare an article on the general trends and situation in the field of child care and protection and rather naively states “something that you could dictate as you sit there at your job, seeing the trends flow past you”. In spite of the fact that this invitation came at a time when the whole world seemed to be topsy-turvy with emergencies appearing on all sides, I could not help but chuckle over the wording. Life is not like that. “Trends” do not flow past a protection worker, they climb right up and sit firmly on one’s desk until notice is taken of them and it is necessary to pay homage to some, to wrestle with others and to yet another group, to give a decent burial.

Blitz in our Morals

What are some of the trends in this particular field of child welfare at this time of pressure and of crisis in the life of social agencies and the families to whom they are attempting to give service? First, there is the general laxity in morals and living standards which is being noted from coast to coast. We all know that in time of war there is an inevitable loosening-up, and letting-down of accepted standards of living and of behaviour. There are obvious psychological as well as physical reasons. What is disturbing, however, to people working in the field of child protection is the almost fatalistic attitude which has been allowed to develop among the general public toward this deterioration of moral standards. The war, of course, is not solely responsible. We have behind us the history of the aftermath of the last great war, and of

the terrible years of depression which did so much in its own way to gnaw away old foundations, leaving now this apparently appalling lack of recognition on the part of the community of the need for adhering to, at least, a minimum standard of decency of living and of moral behaviour between the sexes. Desertion we have always had—immorality also, but this open acceptance of common-law unions and of the fact that it appears to matter very little whether one is living under benefit of clergy or not, is something of which the general public needs to take cognizance, and to do some pretty clear thinking as to where this is going to carry us in the future. What effect is it going to have on family life, on normal parent-child relationships, and on the building-up of the new homes in the future?

How many husbands should a woman have at one time is a question which might well have vexed some of the ancients. It sounds rather strange in this twentieth century of so-called Christian civilization. Perhaps it would more properly meet the need of this article if we phrased it this way—How many “daddies” should a child have? Recently there came to my attention the case of a woman whose husband No. 1 had been separated from her for several years leaving her with two children. There had been no death to break the marriage tie, nor any divorce or annulment. “Husband” No. 2 lived in common-law union with this same woman and her two children for three years and was the father of her third child. He enlisted and she is receiving the benefit of his military pay and dependents’ allowance. She has now “husband” No. 3 who is employed in a war industry and bringing into the home the result of his earnings in addition to the money which is being received from “husband” No. 2 who is serving with His Majesty’s Forces. What are the children to be told about these various men by their mother? What is their attitude toward “Daddy No. 1”, “Daddy No. 2” and “Daddy No. 3” in the future?

“Drinking”

Coupled with this anxiety in moral standards goes also the problem of the heavy drinker and the habitual drunkard. Alcoholism in its various forms is playing a major part in contributing to

neglect of children in their own homes. In the protection files of most Children’s Aid Societies are to be found innumerable instances of the neglect of children, to an extremely serious point, caused by the frequent drunkenness of both parents or of either parent; drunkenness among women is now an important factor in the breakdown of decent standards of living, and of the good health and regularity in school attendance of the children who are part of the family in which that condition occurs.

Child Labour

Another trend is the urge to take boys and girls out of school either before their sixteenth year or without completion of any course likely to fit them to be productive members of society. In our scarcity of skilled mechanics, tool-makers, etc., which has proved a grave problem in the setting-up of war industries, we are reaping the result of our failure adequately to train our young people of the past generation. Are we going to step into that trap again and, for an entirely different reason, again deprive our young people of skills requisite to independence?

Employers in all types of “blind alley” jobs are finding it, of course, increasingly difficult to get older boys and men, and consequently are turning with avidity to the younger age group. This is a pressure which is being put upon families, (many of them horribly insufficiently maintained), which is very hard to withstand, particularly when the children themselves,

as is often very natural, are agitating to get out and be independent and make a little money for themselves and their families in order to relieve the strain at home or to purchase for themselves the extras which they so badly need or which their souls crave. Great care must be taken that in moments of hysteria the community is not stampeded into a programme of lowering standards of education and training simply to meet this demand which can only send children out to work, neither physically, emotionally nor mentally equipped to be permanent wage earners.

Working Mothers

What is happening to all the children whose mothers have suddenly gone into industry? This too we should watch carefully and organize to meet. A tremendous up-draught is under way in industry's requirements, particularly the various war plants, for women employees. If the State and the Public are going to require the services of young married women, both in factory and industrial work and also in various types of public service, releasing others for essential war work, the Public and the State must also organize in such a way that the child life of the community does not suffer seriously. In family after family coming to the attention of protection agencies, mothers are going out to work, partly because of the great demand for their services and partly to make up for the deficiencies in household equipment throughout

the years of depression, and the children, some of them pre-school, but most of them of a school age, are being left without any supervision often until the late hours of the evening, or with supervision which at the best is hit-and-miss and conducive neither to good training, good nutrition nor the building-up of home and family life.

Are we going to develop, particularly in certain areas and centres, a population of little nomads who run around after school getting themselves into varying degrees of difficulty because there is no one at home to oversee them, to prepare their evening meal and to make sure that they are getting constructive supervision? The day nurseries and creches are, as one mother said the other day, "stuffed to the gills" and persons applying there are apt to be further discouraged because of their long waiting lists. Child caring agencies, placing children in foster homes, are taxed to capacity because, along with the financial pressure of placement of large numbers of children in pay care, (only partially met by the family), is also the increasing pressure which is being placed upon homefinders, since many persons who heretofore have been glad to board children are now turning their attention to other types of remunerative employment. Consequently it is becoming increasingly difficult to get the right type of foster home.

Is the ugly head of the baby farm going to rear again in some of our communities which have struggled long to keep down this monster? Are we by our very economic and industrial life opening the way for these undesirable, and unlicensed homes to step into the breach and offer the service to these hard-pressed mothers which recognized welfare agencies are not able to supply?

* * *

At a time when our sailors, our soldiers, and our aircraftsmen are fighting abroad to preserve the very inherent rights of democratic citizenship—the right to one's own home, decent food and living, to a job which brings with it satisfaction and achievement, and to the right to live in normal family relationships with freedom to grow and develop physically, mentally and spiritually according to one's own need—we must be very careful, those of us who are holding the Home Front, that we do not lose the battle here even while the fathers and brothers of these same children, are winning the battle abroad. What will they have to come back to if we, whom they have left at home to care for their

families, allow these trends to become so strong that they plunge us into a new abyss of family disintegration which even now threatens before us?

The field of child protection is the very basis of all social work; if we ignore the child who is neglected, who is dependent, who is a potential delinquent, we are not only damaging an individual life but we are storing up a great deal of trouble and anguish and expense for the future.

It is a tremendous challenge which faces our Canadian people to-day in this field of child welfare; one which calls out all our resources of skill, of intelligence, of integrity and honest planning, and one which calls for all our resources of courage and of physical strength. If we do not accept this challenge, the results for us as a nation will be serious. If we do accept it and put into it the very best that we have, we may yet see the new generation of young Canadians rise to take their place in the new world of the post-war period, decently equipped to meet the tremendous problems which they will have to face.

"Let us then to the task".

ON THE PRAIRIE LANDS . . . Continued from page 28

cribed as the capacity for being 'there'. 'The older I grow, he once wrote, 'the more strongly I feel that the best thing in man or woman is being 'there'. Physical bravery, which is always inspiring, is surprisingly common, but the sure and steady quality of being 'there' belongs to comparatively few.'

"That is one of the things I like about social workers. They develop a capacity for being where they intelligently ought to be and of being there not just casually, but habitually. They bring to any dark scene in life not only courage but intelligence and they are never distracted by the darkness from applying the intelligence."

The new judge of the Halifax Juvenile Court, long senior probation officer for the district, is introduced to his confreres in a common cause.

Youth at the Cross Roads

CANADA is engaged in two wars to-day. She is in the midst of the greatest war in the history of mankind and every passing day sees her gathering momentum in an all-out effort. But there is too another conflict which she continuously wages as well as this against opposing military forces. And this battle rages steadily, whether we are at peace or in mortal combat. It calls for even more vigorous and energetic action in times of material war fare and depression than when peace and plenty are ours. That combat is our campaign against delinquency and neglect of childhood.

No Place to Live

In few places, on the North American continent, is this more clearly apparent to-day than in the City of Halifax. Halifax has normally a population of 60,000. To-day, that total,—floating, resident, or temporary,—is estimated to be 100,000 at least. The City is tremendously overcrowded. People know not where to lay their heads and many are the tragic and pitiable sights witnessed daily. Families in the past who have been accustomed to live, not in apartments, nor flats, but in their own houses, are forced, through no fault of their own, into rooms, sometimes without any cooking facilities whatsoever. They are

ELLIOTT HUDSON

wont to maintain the type of living, which has been theirs all their lives, but decent moderate living quarters are just not to be had. Prices for rooms, apartments, flats and houses are at unheard-of levels.

A friend of mine, a railway employee has just been transferred to Halifax. He has come to the sad and unhappy, but probably accurate, conviction that it will cost him about thirty per cent more to live there than in his present home. Consequently he does not anticipate his move with any great degree of pleasure. And when he does arrive, it is quite likely that he will have to wait several months before he is able to rent a house, flat or apartment, although he has the means of paying for them.

The manager of one of our well-known trust companies was transferred to Halifax this past summer. His firm rents many properties. But this man, who would thus have first-hand knowledge of any houses available for rental, has not been able to find suitable quarters for his wife and family up to the present. Accordingly he has not sent for them and lives in a rooming house.

Halifax is definitely one of the most war conscious cities in the

Dominion. Soldiers, sailors and airmen flock through its streets. Many visitors say that one has no idea of the extent of "Canada at war" until they visit this Atlantic Gateway. Ships of nearly every nation come and go: their sailors tread our public ways, which with our shops and restaurants, our movies and our public places, resound to the accents of other tongues.

In and out of port move the crews of the merchant marine (incidentally much taken for granted, that due credit is rarely accorded these casual heroes of this war) and to their ranks, and to all branches of the fighting forces, Halifax has given heavy tribute of her own sons.

The Backwash

Now what does all this signify? It means, first of all, that schools are shockingly overcrowded. Teachers have many more pupils than they can be expected to teach. Some classes have half-sessions, and under such circumstances, teachers cannot do justice to their pupils. They cannot give to the individual child the time and attention he or she requires. The class-room reacts to the general excitement and overcrowding increases restlessness, taxes the resources of even the most excellent teachers.

This war excitement, running the length and breadth of Canada, in Halifax is at fever-pitch. Anyone working with children can imagine how hard it is for those of school age, to go to school regu-

larly, to keep their minds always on their lessons and to do what their parents wish. It may be too much to expect the youth of our land to behave normally under such abnormal conditions, but any hope of steadiness depends on the strength and steadiness of the services we can bring to help them.

Many of our boys and girls are living in broken homes. The father is serving his King and Country in one or other of the services, and never before has the mother had to bear the full brunt of rearing, training, and disciplining her family. Previously "Dad" was always at home to consult with, to advise, to take a fatherly interest in his lad or lass, and, possibly, to administer discipline! To-day, all this has changed: poor 'Mother' must do it all! Her plight would be difficult enough if she had been left head of the household in normal times, but how much more difficult is her task to-day! Even some of the clubs, to which she could have sent her boy, have been closed and converted into hostels and club-rooms for the armed forces. The result is inevitable. In many cases she is not equal to the task of bringing up her brood, try as she may. She sends Johnny to school. He does not go. She takes him there. He runs away at recess. Put yourself in Johnny's shoes when you were his age. Would you have rather been "larning reading, writing and 'rithmetic" or have seen soldiers, sailors and airmen marching in full kit, or convoys and warships slipping out of har-

bour, aeroplanes and bombers skimming the skies?

Mother has never disciplined Johnny in the past: it was Dad's job. He is absent and the task is too difficult for her. The result on Johnny—and Mary too—is—well!

Every moment of the day, every minute of the hour, are crowded with adventure and excitement. So sometimes Johnny and Mary do more than just play truant. Distant pastures look greener. Wanderlust gets them. They hitch-hike away. Home has been none too good at best; they stay away for a night or two, perhaps longer. The grief-stricken mother does not know what to do. And possibly mis-directed love of adventure breaks out in theft or breaking and entering some store or dwelling.

Sometimes, of course, the mother is not too interested in keeping her home together. She makes faint-hearted efforts to get Johnny and Mary to go to school and to keep out of trouble, but if they don't, she just throws up her hands, says that she cannot handle them and wants them "put away". Sometimes we have mothers, and occasionally fathers, coming to the Juvenile Court and stating that she or he cannot get her or his six or seven year old boy to go to school. They plead this in all seriousness and are quite willing, and even desirous, of being relieved of all responsibility in

bringing up the child. This is indeed a tragic state of affairs.

Delinquency

Halifax has had over twice as many cases of delinquency reported to the Court during the months of September, October and November this year as in the same months of 1940. This is a serious situation, imposing a heavy duty on one and all, individuals and organizations alike, to exert still greater efforts to keep the children of Canada out of harm's way and to make of them strong, vigorous, manly and womanly citizens of this land.

* * *

We are calling on our men to fight for the establishment and preservation of the kind of world we would like to live in. They are responding nobly to this call. Of necessity, they leave their children at home in our keeping. If, after winning the military victory for which we are all praying, they return home to find that they have lost the war on the home front—that their children have fallen into delinquent ways and that their homes have been broken up—who is to take the blame? We, here in Canada, or they, away from our shores?

We must make sure that both these wars are fought with our utmost vigour and that in winning the one we do not lose sight of the urgency of victory in the other. Men and women of Canada, what are we going to do about it?

There are few fields of more vital possibility today than that of the sound informing of the people through adult education.

Adult Education and Public Opinion

THE IMPACT of the war upon public thinking generally throughout Canada is nowhere more evident than in the field of Adult Education. The demand for authentic and inexpensive materials for use by study groups has increased steadily ever since the war began. This is partly due to the stimulating effect of the radio, the increased activities of innumerable voluntary organizations in the field of mass education and to the general desire, on the part of the public, for wider information, not only with regard to international problems, but to Canadian and inter-American problems arising from the new situations confronting the democracies.

Last year, for example, an experiment was undertaken by the C.B.C. and the C.A.A.E. in the form of organized listening groups to discuss farm problems. So great was the success of this experiment that the series is continued this year on the national network, sponsored in addition by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. It is anticipated that in each of the nine provinces there will be from 500 to 1,000 listening groups, with an average attendance of fifteen to twenty people in each group, receiving weekly supplies of study group material as guides in discussion. Every one of the provinces in the Dominion has been

E. A. CORBETT, M.A., LL.D.

organized under the direction of a provincial committee, representing farm organizations and educational institutions and, if the other provinces have been as efficiently organized as Ontario has been by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, there will probably be close to 100,000 farmers and their wives across Canada registered in listening groups for this series of broadcasts.

The "Co-op."

There are other evidences of a growing interest in the part that informal education can play in problems of reconstruction and rehabilitation. The growth of the co-operative and credit union movement is evidence of the mounting interest of farmers, fishermen, miners, civil servants and industrial workers in the possibilities of the co-operative principle as a way to greater economic security and a better way of life. It is estimated that, in the Maritime Provinces, inspired largely by the success of the well-known St. Francis Xavier experiment, there are approximately 25,000 people in study groups, either connected with or leading to the organization of co-operatives and credit unions. The movement in Quebec is growing rapidly and in the past year the number of

Caisses Populaires has moved up from something over 500 to 696 organizations, with assets of many millions of dollars. The co-operative movement in Quebec Province alone last year did a business of close to 15 million dollars. The same evidence of growing interest in self-help through education and organization is apparent in all of the provinces of Canada.

Reaching the People

There are a number of reasons why education has captured the imagination of rural people. Its value has been brought home to them through the government youth training plan, through the activities of University Extension Departments, but mainly, probably, through the growing interest of farmers' organizations. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in its national platform, emphasizes the need for education, and, in the province of Manitoba Federation of Agriculture gives a large part of its thought, effort and money to an extremely well organized and enthusiastically administered study group program. In Ontario, also, the Federation of Agriculture sponsors rural study groups, listening groups and Folk Schools, as well as accepting the major part of the responsibility for organizing the Ontario listening groups for the "Farm Radio Forum" broadcasts.

During the last two years the need for regular supplies of carefully prepared, inexpensive pamphlet material for use by these innumerable groups has been one

of the major concerns of the C.A.A.E. These have taken the form of four main series. The "Canadian Farm Problem" series is made up of sixteen pamphlets.*

The total sale of all pamphlets from this office last year was over 100,000 copies,—sufficient indication of the desire, on the part of large numbers of Canadian people, to familiarize themselves with national and international questions through the study group method. The C.A.A.E. is therefore a clearing-house for this whole new educational movement. Its Council members represent Universities, Departments of Education, Farmers' Organizations and a large number of voluntary organizations. It concerns itself with the carrying out of the objectives set forth in the constitution adopted in 1935, when the society was first organized. (a) To serve as a clearing house, and to maintain a working library; (b) To develop interest by means of publications, radio and conferences; (c) To suggest methods and to improve the work in adult education; (d) To provide for research and study; (e) To undertake experiments and demonstrations; (f) To advise grant-giving bodies, educational trusts and private donors, regarding the status of any organization that applies for a grant.

Through this means the C.A.A.E. hopes to awaken and sustain an enlightened interest in the possibilities of self-help through education; to provide for the growing interest among Canadian people in

problems of international and local concern; and to strengthen their purpose to preserve and defend our national heritage of free thought and expression.

*Pamphlet Publications.

A. "CANADIAN FARM PROBLEMS SERIES":

1. Are there too many farmers?
2. Should Canada restrict farming of sub-marginal lands?
3. Will increased production benefit the farmer?
4. Should Canada encourage land settlement of immigrants?
5. Can we improve our taxation system?
6. How far will improved farm management help?
7. What credit facilities should the farmer have?
8. Can government research improve the economic position of the farmer?
9. What can we hope to accomplish through fairs and exhibitions?
10. Government grading and marketing—do they help the farmer?
11. What do we need for efficient marketing?
12. What can the farmer gain through organization?
13. Will co-operation solve the farmer's troubles?
14. Is government control of marketing desirable or practicable?
15. If regulation is adopted, what should it be?

16. What should we do about it?

B. THE "BEHIND THE HEADLINES" SERIES, (published in co-operation with the Canadian Institute of International Affairs):

Volume I

1. Bushels to Burn.
2. Uncle Sam on the Brink.
3. Shake Hands Latin America.
4. Confederation Marches On.
5. Labour and the War.
6. American Dollars Are Hard To Get.
7. Ogdensburg, Hyde Park—And After.
8. Dynamic Democracy.
9. How We Get Our World News.
10. If Thine Enemy Hunger . . . !

Volume II

1. What About Wheat?
2. Canada's Control of Labour Relations.

C. THE "DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP" SERIES has been one of the most successful of the pamphlet productions and consists of the following titles:

1. How did we get that way?
2. How the wheels go round.
3. You take out what you put in.
4. Can we make good?
5. Do you deserve Democracy?
6. How healthy is Canada?
7. Education and the New Order.

D. "FOOD FOR THOUGHT" — C.A.A.E. monthly magazine carries a major article on some Canadian problems, news of the movement, bibliographies, and book reviews.

THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE . . . Continued from page 40

will be undertaken in this respect regarding munition workers and office workers.

As above indicated, plenty of good food, open-air exercise and sleep are the best weapons we

possess at this time to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases, and we who are engaged in the field of public health should bend all our efforts towards that end.

Our new hemispheric solidarity and the consciousness of a new epoch opening from this war bring closer the great South American states.*

Brazil: Land of the Future

STEFAN ZWEIG

ZWEIG makes Brazil sound almost too good to be true—a land, turgid with treasures, as yet scarcely touched; a land rich in almost everything except motive power; a land where, according to the author, “everything is violent—the sun, the light, the colours”, and where “everything flourishes, fruit, plant, man and animal”.

That this rich and overflowing country has remained comparatively unknown for so many years appears to have been due to the ability of the Portuguese (who discovered it) to refrain from bragging and boasting—those human attributes which have cost many a man and nation their possessions. Possibly this unwonted modesty was because they at first believed the ‘land of the parrots’ (Tierra de Papagios) to be completely lacking in anything worth a boasting. Apparently other European nations shared this view, for although a few small coastal invasions took place in the early stages of Brazil’s 400 years of history, little seems to have come of them, and the country remained Portuguese.

There is an interesting chapter on the history of this most favored land. Mr. Zweig has the continental trick of vitalizing his story by

*Brazil: *Land of the Future*. Viking Press (N.Y.).

switching suddenly from the past to the present tense. Brazil seems to have progressed slowly but steadily, each seeming disaster always leaving her better off than before; everything working to her advantage in the long run. “Just as Napoleon’s wars were the indirect cause of Brazil’s political independence”, he says, “so has Hitler’s war created Brazilian industry.” There has never been a major war in Brazil, and the population is therefore peaceful and easy-going. Indeed one cannot help feeling somewhat apprehensive for the fate of so gentle and sensitive a people when modern industrialists really get started there. Mr. Zweig speaks again and again of the kindly, unsuspecting nature of the Brazilian whom he describes as “a quiet person, dreamy and sentimental”. “Every form of brutality, loudness, rudeness and arrogance is missing”, he says; and again, “Here one never hears of cruelty to animals, of bull fights, or cock fights . . . the Brazilian is shocked by brutality.” Crimes are rarely premeditated but “are usually the result of sudden jealousy or offence.” The native population, descended largely from African slaves and Portuguese “down-and-outs” are said to be of slight build and delicate constitution; moreover their health

has been undermined first by the ravages of syphilis and then (and now) of tuberculosis and malaria. Here indeed would seem to be a tremendous field for public health workers!

Mr. Zweig becomes almost lyrical when he describes 'Rio' with all its beauties and contrasts, and compares it with New York: "Manhattan's welcome is masculine, heroic, symbolizing the vast human willpower of America—one single expression of concentrated strength. Rio, on the other hand, does not rise up to confront the visitor; instead it spreads itself out before his gaze, receiving him with a feminine grace, drawing him nearer, surrendering itself even with a certain voluptuousness . . ."; and he pleads for an artist to come "before it is too late" and paint the

houses and the streets, particularly those of "the district one does not talk about, the great market of love, the Mangue, the Yoshiwara of Rio . . . , as fantastic and oriental a sight as I have ever seen."

So for those who are fearful that a crushed Europe may mean the end of civilization this book should bring a note of cheer and hope. "We must keep reminding ourselves", says Mr. Zweig, "that today this immense country represents for our overcrowded, in many ways exhausted, world one of the great hopes, perhaps the most justified hope, thanks to its space and its untapped resources", for "where there is space, there is not only time but also the future. And in Brazil one can feel the strong rustling of its wings."

W.M.P.R.

Barometer Rising (in Halifax)

WHEN Neil Macrae disobeyed an order given to him by his superior officer, who was also his uncle, Geoffrey Wain, he was guilty of rank insubordination in the eyes of those who must maintain order and discipline in the armed forces. After the War, of course, it did not matter a great deal, because the ruined church in which Neil was under guard was demolished by heavy bombing. Any defence Neil may have been able to voice

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HUGH MACLENNAN

for himself was thus silenced by Death's grey hand; and, in the opinion of many of those who had known him, it was probably the easier way out. Even dishonourable death was preferable to the charge he would have had to carry through life with him.

Neil Macrae came back from the dead, however, determined to prove his innocence, even at the cost of ruining his uncle's carefully

built reputation—the reputation of the upright and domineering scion of a family who, for generations, had been shipbuilders and designers. Geoffrey had hated his nephew.

To complicate matters further, was Neil's love for Penelope Wain, who had loved him in return. Now, believing him dead, although refusing to believe in his dishonour, she had submerged herself in work. Penelope kept up, even to herself, the pretence that she needed no other interest in life than her work in the designing office of her father's great industry.

This is also the story of Hugh Murray, who loved Penelope Wain. The love of Hugh, a cynical and charming man, was the love which asks more for the other than for self. He learned Penelope's secret, and loved her still, with a deeper understanding.

When Neil Macrae returned to Canada, recovered from amnesia, and still ill and shaken by his ordeal, he searched for "Big Alec" Mackenzie, a man whose loyalty

toward a friend had not faltered in the face of the most damning evidence. Big Alec did not believe that his friend could be capable of cowardice, and he kept this belief when there was only his own faith to argue for Neil's innocence.

In "Barometer Rising," we have a day-by-day sequence of events, whose trend runs out inevitably its emotional tragedy. The course of these events is abruptly swerved by fate's inexorable intervention—in a catastrophe whose immensity immerses the troubles of individual humans—the disastrous Halifax explosion of December 10, 1917.

Mr. MacLennan draws, on an entirely new background with the pen of a true artist, deft word-pictures of the Halifax which existed before, during, and after the 1917 disaster. One by one, he draws his characters into the net of circumstance, building up a hopeless situation which can only carry grief for all. Then, dramatically, petty human problems are swept aside by an unforeseen and vast national catastrophe.

CULTURAL FACTORS IN SOCIAL WORK

"Cultural Problems in Social Case Work" consist of three papers—*Cultural and Racial Problems in Social Case Work with Special Reference to Work with Negroes*, by Maurine Boie LaBarre, Editor of Publications, Family Welfare Association of America; *Cultural and Psychological Implications in Case Work Treatment with Irish Clients*, by Elise de la Fontaine, District Secretary, Community Service Society, New York City; *Some Cultural Aspects of Social Case Work in Hawaii*, by Eileen Blackey, formerly Director of Social Work Training, University of Hawaii. (Price 50c, Family Welfare Association of America).

This fascinating study develops the idea that while all peoples possess certain characteristics, most marked distinctions in behaviour and attitude bear back to tradition, customs and culture.

The negro culture is first examined. No racial uniformity is revealed in the problems of negro clients, while those which recur appear to be the product of American life and not due to racial characteristics. Case examples illustrate the negro's attitude towards such problems as dependency, and illegitimacy; his deceptions are analysed as are the bases of his co-operation.

A good case worker with negroes needs a knowledge of the client's background; a sensitivity and warm interest so that the worker can "feel along" with the client; and a fund of sound factual material acquired by study of the people.

Here is good reading, not only for the case worker with negro clients, but to any student, professional or lay. A stimulating reference list lures to further interest.

The Irish

The Irish studies are based on "twenty-five cases of Irish-born clients, plus readings in Irish literature, history and anthropology and conversations with colleagues or acquaintances including those of Irish descent". This study outlines the historical and geographical background, the psychology and religion of the Irish people, in their influence on the racial characteristics. Case work implications are set out against this review.

Whereas the segregation of the negro race, as shown in the previous article, is forced upon them, it is emphasized in this second study, that the Irish group follow exclusiveness by choice, for their cultural pattern knits the Irish people closely together.

The Hawaiian

Hawaii with its many racial groups of Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Caucasian, Portuguese, Puerto Rican and Filipino presents not only many separate cultures but the inter-play of divergent cultures upon each other. Throughout the study this difficulty for the case worker is weighed, and consideration given in different situations to the advisability of the worker belonging to or being outside the client's cultural group.

The article is particularly interesting because it describes a field unfamiliar to most of us.

A brief outline of the listings therein adds to the value of the Hawaiian bibliography.

IN UPPER CANADA . . . Continued from page 23

And, afterwards?

Social agencies have already been called into the breach to take over certain responsibility for direct war activities such as Dependents Allowances, supervision of soldiers' families and the placing and supervising of British Children. These they have taken "in their stride". The whole civilian social welfare service has shown that it can change its thinking to meet an emergency but what of the future? What preparation are social agencies making for coping with such possible emergencies as the evacuation of children and adults from our large urban centres? What efforts are being

made by organized social agencies to train and direct groups of volunteers who may be necessary to supplement and expand existing trained staffs?

All this and more is a challenge to generalship. Each question here propounded is going to have to be solved by some person or group or authority. There is at the present time no unanimous agreement on many of them. Social agencies have shown that they can lead the way. Is that leadership now going to assert itself or will it bog down in the mire of indifference and disunity? Certain trends are in evidence, how will they be guided?

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